



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR DECEMBER 4, 2001
STATE OF MONTANA OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE

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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
Trust Land Management Division
Minerals Management Bureau
Helena, MT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION



JUDY H. MARTZ, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
TELEFAX NUMBER (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

October 31, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment for the December 4, 2001 lease sale. I concur with the recommendation to add to the basic State of Montana Oil and Gas lease the additional lease stipulations specified for each tract in Appendix A. In conjunction with the basic lease agreement, these stipulations sufficiently mitigate potential environmental concerns with leasing the proposed tracts. All tracts are stipulated for subsequent, site-specific environmental review if any activity is proposed on the surface of the tract. For tracts located on the area east of the Rocky Mountain Front, the "Rocky Mountain Front" stipulation is proposed. This stipulation expressly prohibits use of the surface of the tract unless the Land Board approves such use. Further, this stipulation explicitly reserves to the State the right to deny such use, if approval would not constitute the best use of trust resources or would not be in the best interest of the State of Montana. Accordingly, there is no need for an EIS for this lease sale.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Monte G. Mason".

Monte G. Mason, Chief
Minerals Management Bureau

October 31, 2001

Date

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON THE

DECEMBER 4, 2001

OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Trust Land Management Division

I. Introduction

The State of Montana owns over six million acres of oil and gas rights that are scattered across the state. The lands that these mineral rights lie under are varied, consisting of timber, grazing, and agricultural land. The state also owns mineral rights below navigable lakes and streams in Montana. Each land type will be impacted differently by oil and gas related activity.

This document contains the environmental review of lands nominated for oil and gas leasing for the **December 4, 2001** lease sale. Alternatives reviewed in this document are 1) No Action - deny the oil and gas lease; and 2) Approve the oil and gas lease with appropriate stipulations.

II. Purpose and Need for the Action

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) has received nominations for **122** tracts of land totaling **43,968.54** acres for the purpose of oil and gas exploration and development. A listing of these tracts and their locations are found in Appendix A.

Prior to leasing the nominated tracts, the TLMD must review each tract for potential impacts on the human and natural environment from oil and gas operations. By leasing lands for oil and gas exploration, the trusts administered by TLMD benefit from rental and potential royalty income. A copy of the lease form is included in Appendix B1.

III. Agency Responsibilities

A. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) is authorized to lease state-owned oil and gas for exploration and development (MCA 77-3-401, et seq.). Oil and gas lease sales occur quarterly, as required by ARM 26.3.206(1). Under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MCA 75-1-201, et seq.), the TLMD must review leasing of nominated tracts for potential impacts on the human and natural environment prior to leasing unless a clause for denial of activity is added to the lease.

The TLMD must decide whether to lease the nominated tracts with appropriate stipulations or deny leasing.

B. Board of Oil and Gas Conservation

The Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC) is responsible for requiring "measures to be taken to prevent contamination of or damage to surrounding land or underground strata caused by drilling operations and production..." (MCA 82-11-111(2)(a)). The BOGC issues permits for oil and gas drilling operations (MCA 82-11-122), and also oversees proper plugging and abandonment of seismic shotholes and oil and gas wells (MCA 82-11-123(4)). All permitting by the BOGC is subject to an environmental review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MCA 75-1-201, et seq.). A programmatic EIS on oil and gas activity was completed by the BOGC in 1989 (BOGC, 1989) and is incorporated in this EA by reference. TLMD adopts the conclusions and information contained in that EIS.

The BOGC is not involved in leasing decisions taken by the TLMD.

IV. Procedure

Notification of the tracts nominated for lease was submitted to the following agencies and individuals for review and comments:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - Trust Land
Management Division Area Office Managers
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - TLMD
Archeologist and Hydrologist/geologist
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - TLMD
Minerals Management Bureau Chief, Forest Management Bureau
Chief, and Land Management Section Supervisor - Agricultural
and Grazing Bureau
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Offices and
Field Biologists at applicable Area Resource Offices
Montana Natural Heritage Program
Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor
Bureau of Land Management, Billings
Bureau of Reclamation, Billings
U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rocky Boys Agency
Rocky Boys Agency
Oil and Gas Lease Sale Mailing List
Department Website
(<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/trust/tlmdhome.htm>)

Comments received from these agencies and individuals are reviewed and stipulations are developed for each tract nominated for leasing. Agency comments are located in Appendix C. Appendix D is used for public comments. The department received 394 public comments as of the October 26, 2001 public comment deadline. The department received 135 late comments as of October 30, 2001. If any late comments regarding the December 4, 2001 sale are received on future dates, they will be included in Appendix E in the EA file.

Issues reviewed for this process include:

- The presence of sensitive plant and animal communities.
- The presence of historical or cultural sites.
- Potential impacts of oil and gas related activities on soils, hydrology, wildlife, vegetation, and human resources.
- Potential for "No Surface Occupancy" restrictions.

Potential conflicts with current land use (such as
Federal Farm Programs including CRP).
Other potential resources for the tract.

Field evaluations from past inspections, information from DNRC-TLMD field office files, and, if necessary, additional on-site evaluations are used by the TLMD field staff in assessing potential impacts from oil and gas leasing and subsequent development. Information contained in the programmatic EIS produced by the BOGC (BOGC, 1989) is also utilized in determining the potential impacts of future oil and gas development for the nominated tracts. Stipulations are then attached to the lease to provide resource protection during future lease operations. These stipulations range from strict, no surface occupancy restrictions to requirements for operating plan approval (with the potential of future denial) to buffer and avoidance stipulations, and surface damage settlement issues. A list of example stipulations is located in Appendix B2. Four of these stipulations, A-2, B, C, and D, are placed on all leases and are denoted in Appendix B2 with an asterisk. Operating plan review is required on all leases either through the use of stipulation A-1 or the sensitive areas stipulations F-1, F-2, or F-3 (see Appendix B2).

The Montana State Board of Land Commissioners adopted the following resolution at their June 18, 2001 meeting:

"The approval of the June 5, 2001 oil and gas lease sales in no way commits the land board to approval of coal bed methane production on these or any other outstanding leases. Any coal bed methane extraction wells would require subsequent review and approval by the board."

Since it is unknown at the time of leasing the type of targets that are being sought, stipulation A-2 has been modified to include Land Board review of any coal bed methane activities.

For all nominated tracts, additional environmental assessments will be completed with the receipt of an operating plan by both TLMD and the BOGC. Potential problems are mitigated at that time through modifications in the plan. TLMD can not deny drilling of a well unless stipulated at the time of the lease, but stipulations can be added to the operating plan to mitigate impacts. The BOGC, however, may deny a drilling permit or include additional stipulations in the drilling permit.

For tracts nominated in potentially sensitive areas, three special stipulations have been developed (Appendix B2, stipulations F-1, F-2, and F-3). These stipulations create a tiered environmental review process with the potential for future denial of activities. An impact analysis is not required prior to leasing a tract with a sensitive area stipulation. (North Fork Preservation Assoc. v. Dept of State Lands, 238 Mont. 451, 778, P.2d 862 (1989); Conner v. Burford, 836 F.2d 1521 at 1528 (9th Cir., 1988)). When activity is proposed on a lease, the operating plan receives an environmental review. This review consists of an evaluation of impacts of the proposed action. Additional stipulations and mitigating measures may be required prior to the activity, or activity may be denied. Depending on the location and potential impacts from the specific activity proposed, this environmental review could consist of a basic Environmental Assessment up to a full Environmental Impact Statement. Additional environmental assessments may be necessary with further development of the lease. Environmental assessments are completed as necessary throughout the term of the lease.

The Trust Land Management Division of DNRC developed the sensitive areas stipulation (F-1, Appendix B2) for areas that contain some elements that are environmentally sensitive, but are not location dependant. However, this stipulation has also been utilized where state mineral estate is in or immediately adjacent to cities, parks, wildlife refuges, Indian reservations, or Forest Service land, etc. in compliance with State Land Board direction.

The State Land Board developed stipulation F-2 to address the level of interest and concern expressed over leasing and possible development of state lands located in western Teton and northwestern Lewis and Clark Counties (i.e. the lower elevation eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain Front, generally west of Choteau and Augusta). Stipulation F-2 (Appendix B2) outlines Land Board review and approval and delineates the review process.

Stipulation F-3 (Appendix B2) has been developed to address the level of interest and concern expressed for school trust land within or adjacent to the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Area, the Beartooth State Wildlife Management Area, and/or the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. These areas fall outside the Rocky Mountain Front description noted above. The F-3 sensitive area stipulation is similar to F-2 in that it specifically outlines Land Board review and approval and delineates the review process. As a part of this review "No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board." After completion of the review, the Land Board may approve, modify, or deny surface activity on the lease.

V. Public Notification

Public notice of nominated tracts and request for comments is made two months prior to the lease sale in the Rocky Mountain Oil Journal, Billings Gazette, Great Falls Tribune, and Helena Independent Record. The tract list is sent to everyone on the Department's mailing list of approximately 800 individuals, organizations, and companies. Anyone can be added to the mailing list by contacting the Department. Lease sale lists, dates, and important deadlines are also available on the Department's Internet web site (<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/trust/tlmdhome.htm>). After completion of the Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA, the list of nominated tracts and attached stipulations is published in the Rocky Mountain Oil Journal, made available on the Department's Internet web site, and mailed to everyone on the Department's mailing list.

VI. Resource Analysis

The following issues were analyzed for potential impact on state owned land:

A. Wildlife:

Potential impacts on wildlife for each tract are analyzed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) field office staff with additional input from the MT Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP) regional office staff. Letters requesting information on potential impacts from oil and gas activities are sent to each DFWP regional office by electronic mail or postal mail. Information provided by the MT Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) is also reviewed. Based on comments and information provided, stipulations are applied to protect wildlife resources. If no site-specific response is received from DFWP or TLMD field offices, and the MNHP search turns up no element occurrence data, then no additional stipulations are

added to the tract. However, the standard operating plan review stipulation (number 1 in the application list in Appendix A) still allows coverage of wildlife concerns that may arise in any subsequent site-specific review.

For the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, several stipulations have been applied to various tracts due to wildlife concerns. Both the sensitive areas stipulation and the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation are proposed for use in this environmental assessment. DNRC tracts on the Rocky Mountain Front in Lewis and Clark County for which the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19 in the application list in Appendix A, F-2 in Appendix B2) is recommended are application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102. The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation is also recommended for application numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County. Utilization of this stipulation on these tracts would address wildlife concerns for various species, including grizzly bears, lynx, ferruginous hawks, northern goshawk, elk, black terns, Montana Arctic grayling, westslope cutthroat trout, and trumpeter swans. The sensitive areas stipulation (number 18 in Appendix A, F-1 in Appendix B-2) is applied to application number 5069 in Lewis and Clark County for grizzly bears and lynx.

The wildlife survey stipulation (see number 11 in Appendix A) is utilized on application number 5002 in Blaine County for swift fox. In Pondera County (application number 5062) the wildlife survey stipulation is applied for ferruginous hawks. In Rosebud County it is used on application numbers 5065, 5067, 5015, 5017, 5019-5020, and 5023-5024 due to sage grouse concerns. It is also utilized on application number 5063 in Treasure County and number 5066 in Rosebud County for mountain plovers.

The TLMD contact MT-DFWP regarding wildlife concerns stipulation (number 12, Appendix A) is utilized in Rosebud County on application number 5013 for prairie dogs and on application numbers 5065, 5067, 5015, 5017, 5019-5020, and 5023-5024 for sage grouse.

The navigable river (no-surface occupancy) stipulation utilized on application numbers 5026-5027, 5038-5039, 5044 and 5047 in Lewis and Clark County and on numbers 5057-5058 in Teton County also covers wildlife and fishery concerns for the Sun River in these tracts.

B. Water Quality:

Potential impacts on surface water resources are analyzed by the TLMD field office staff and the TLMD hydrologist/geologist. Notation is made on locations of perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, springs, wells, ditches, canals, prairie potholes, etc. within a nominated tract. If set-backs from water resources are required, a stipulation is applied to protect these resources. Ground water resource protection is required by the BOGC, and BOGC permitting is contingent on adequate protection. For this lease sale the 100-ft stream, wetland, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation is utilized for various scenarios on 49 tracts (see stipulation 7 in application list in Appendix A). Streams, ponds, wetlands, reservoirs, etc. on application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County are covered by utilization of the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19, Appendix A) on these tracts.

Other stipulations are applied to larger water bodies. For this sale, the navigable river (no-surface occupancy) stipulation (see stipulation 15, Appendix

A) is applied to application numbers 5026-5027, 5038-5039, 5044, and 5047 in Lewis and Clark County for reaches of the Sun River that are part of these tracts. It is also utilized on application numbers 5057 and 5058 in Teton County due to the presence of the Sun River in these tracts. The river, lake/reservoir (1/8-mile) buffer stipulation (see stipulation 14, Appendix A) is utilized on application number 5047 in Lewis and Clark County due to state-owned upland being crossed by reaches of the Sun River. The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation utilized on application numbers 5038-5039 in Lewis and Clark County and on numbers 5057-5058 in Teton County would cover any buffer zone needed for the Sun River adjoining state owned upland in these tracts. The 1/8th mile river, lake/reservoir buffer is also added to application number 5093 in Toole County where McCarters Lake is within the tract.

C. Soils and Topography:

TLMD field office personnel review soil surveys conducted by the USDA-NRCS along with field notes from previous inspections to determine the potential for impacts to fragile soils. If protection of fragile soils is needed, a stipulation is implemented to protect the resource. The TLMD field office personnel and the TLMD geologist/hydrologist also review topographic maps to obtain an indication of the topography. For the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, rough/steep topography or fragile, unstable soils have resulted in stipulation 10 (see Appendix A) being applied to application number 5088 in Daniels County, number 5092 in Fallon County, number 5062 in Pondera County, and numbers 5007, 5009, 5010, 5020, 5022, 5024, and 5025 in Rosebud County. Soils and other surface concerns that may arise during a site-specific review are also handled through the standard operating plan review stipulation (see number 1, Appendix A). Steep/rough topography and/or unstable soils on Lewis and Clark County tracts, application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County are addressed by utilization of the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19, Appendix A). These concerns are covered for application number 5069 in Lewis and Clark County and number 5060 in Hill County by application of the sensitive areas stipulation (number 18, Appendix A) on these tracts.

D. Vegetation

TLMD field office personnel review records in the office for potential impacts on vegetation in an area. Information provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program is also reviewed by the TLMD geologist/hydrologist. If rare plants or potential for significant impacts exist on a tract, stipulations are implemented to protect these resources. For this sale, plants that the Montana Natural Heritage Program indicates to be of potential concern on the Rocky Mountain Front in Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties are covered by utilization of the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19, Appendix A) on application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County. These plants include: small yellow lady's slipper, round-leaved orchis, Great Basin downingia, small clubbrush, pale sedge, autumn willow, and scorpidium scorpioides depending on location and habitat.

In Sheridan County, the vegetation survey stipulation (number 13, Appendix A) will be applied to application number 5061 for Fendler cat's eye, pale-spiked lobelia, and plains phlox. In Fallon County, it will also be utilized on application number 5092 for Raceme milkvetch.

In addition, some tracts contain wooded areas that occur outside the zone covered by the riparian buffer stipulation (number 7, Appendix A). In order to minimize disturbance to this vegetation, the avoid wooded areas stipulation (see stipulation 9, Appendix A) is utilized on application number 5092 in Fallon County, number 5047 in Lewis and Clark County, number 5059 in Richland County, number 5008 in Rosebud County, and 5001 in Toole County for the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale. For tracts in Lewis and Clark County and Teton County where the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19, Appendix A) is utilized, wooded areas are covered by this stipulation. The sensitive areas stipulation (number 18, Appendix A) provides for review of wooded areas on application number 5069 in Lewis and Clark County.

Since weeds are a concern throughout Montana, a stipulation is added to each lease (see stipulation 4 in Appendix A). This stipulation holds the lessee responsible for controlling noxious weeds introduced by the lessee's activity on the tract and preventing their spread. Where weeds are especially a problem, a special stipulation (see stipulation W in Appendix B2) is utilized in addition to stipulation 4. No tracts on the December 4, 2001 sale required this special weed stipulation.

E. Land use conflicts:

Nominated tracts are reviewed by TLMD field office personnel for current land use, and potential conflicts are noted. Each lease contains a clause that indicates the oil and gas lessee agrees to be responsible for payment of actual surface damages arising from oil and gas exploration or development. A special stipulation is added to the lease for land involved in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (Appendix A, stipulation 8). This stipulation is applied to application number 5086 in Daniels County, number 5059 in Richland County, number 5053 in Teton County, and number 5001 in Toole County. The lease terms also prohibit drilling within 200 feet of a residence or barn (see Appendix B1, Section 28 of the example lease form). Usually, oil and gas activity only impacts a small portion of any lease, and conflicts with current land use are rare.

Special stipulations are also utilized for information, for avoidance, or other needed mitigation as warranted. For the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, application number 5032 in Lewis and Clark County receives stipulation 17 in Appendix A covering potential restrictions due to existing surface uses, i.e. irrigation center pivots, on this tract.

Furthermore, areas where the state does not own the surface receive the stipulation requiring contact of the surface owner. These tracts occur in varied locations and are also designated in the application list by text and an asterisk (see Appendix A, stipulation 6). This contact stipulation is applied to 38 tracts on the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

F. Historical and Cultural Resources:

Each nominated tract is reviewed by the TLMD archeologist for the presence of known historical or cultural sites and for the potential of discovery of a new historical or cultural site. Where applicable, TLMD field office staff and the TLMD geologist/hydrologist are consulted regarding paleontological resources on the tracts. A stipulation is added to each lease that protects archaeological, historic, and paleontological sites, and surface activities may be restricted if a significant site is discovered during the lease term (see Appendix A, stipulation 3).

G. Existing facilities/Geologic potential

Each nominated tract is reviewed by the TLMD geologist/hydrologist and Minerals Management Bureau Chief for production potential, production or drilling history, and existing facilities. If concerns exist, stipulations are added to the lease. Example stipulations for these circumstances are located in Appendix B2, stipulations K-M. For the December 4, 2001 sale, the existing facilities stipulation (number 16, Appendix A) is applied to application number 5089 in Stillwater County.

H. Sensitive Areas

The reasons for sensitive area concerns are varied. They can stem from location of the area or result from concerns regarding one or more of the resource areas mentioned above. For tracts nominated in potentially sensitive areas, three special stipulations have been developed that create a tiered environmental review process with the potential for future denial of activities (Appendix B2, stipulations F-1, F-2, and F-3). For the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, MT-DNRC received 394 public comments regarding Rocky Mountain Front tracts in Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties by the October 26, 2001 comment deadline. These included: 35 letters, 3 e-mail letters, 3 postcards, 1 telephone message, and 352 form postcards (see Appendix D). Fifty-one form postcards included additional comments ranging from: thanks for the opportunity to comment; recommending acquiring oil and gas from Alaska or Azerbaijan to Uzbekistan; agreeing with the content of the postcard; advocating protection of the Front to leaving it alone; political statements; concerns about cleanup cost for taxpayers; to, no drilling on the Rocky Mountain Front. Some commentors sent both letters and form postcards. One e-mail letter and one form postcard with comments supported oil and gas leasing and development on the Rocky Mountain Front. Fifteen comments opposed leasing of state land on the Rocky Mountain Front. Eleven comments opposed oil and gas development on the Rocky Mountain Front. Four responders brought up questions that would be covered during site-specific review of proposed activity. Two comments requested utilization of the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation. Two comments requested careful analysis of impacts. Three hundred fifty-eight comments advocated protection of the Rocky Mountain Front. One comment provided information on former experience with Rocky Mountain Front land management. After the October 26, 2001 deadline the department received 134 public comments, i.e. 16 letters, 1 postcard, and 117 form postcards. Details on these late comments are contained in Appendix E.

The MT-DNRC proposes to apply the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19 in the application list in Appendix A) to 66 tracts on the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale. This recommendation is proposed for application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County. This stipulation was utilized on application numbers 5072-5074, 5078, 5085, and 5094-5099 in Lewis and Clark County when they were previously leased in June 1999 and on application numbers 5050, 5075-5077, 5079-5084, and 5100-5102 when previously leased in June 2000. This proposal is due to the location of these school trust lands in northwestern Lewis and Clark County and western Teton County, i.e. (the lower elevation eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain Front, generally west of Choteau and Augusta) and proximity to areas with concerns including wildlife, water quality, and vegetation.

Pursuant to the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation, "No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board." After completion of an environmental review, the Land Board may approve, modify, or deny surface activity on the lease.

Use of the Rocky Mountain Front stipulation by the Land Board results in a lease agreement that expressly precludes any utilization of the surface by the lessee, unless the lessee can formulate an operating and reclamation plan that meets the Land Board's approval as constituting the best use of trust resources or the best interest of the State of Montana. The stipulation also recognizes and requires that any surface utilization of the lease lands would have to adhere to applicable resource guidelines prepared by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The stipulation also expressly incorporates a requirement that the environmental impact statement include impact analysis on an ecosystem scale. Therefore, the broad socioeconomic and natural resource concerns expressed by some commentators relative to the overall impacts from surface use of state lands for exploration or development will be addressed if/when a proposal for use is submitted by the lessee. It is important to note that, unlike the large blocks of Federal ownership along the Rocky Mountain Front, a decision by the Land Board on whether to allow school trust lands to be utilized for exploration or development does not determine whether such activity will occur. The state school trust parcels are scattered along the eastern transition area east of the Front, within an area of significant private mineral ownership. The Land Board does not have authority over private land interests.

In addition, the sensitive areas stipulation (number 18, Appendix A) is applied to one tract in Lewis and Clark County, (application number 5069) due to its location northwest of Wolf Creek in central Lewis and Clark County and its proximity to the Montana Natural Heritage Program's grizzly bear area. This tract was previously leased in June 2000 with this stipulation. In accordance with previous Land Board direction, the sensitive areas stipulation (number 18 in Appendix A, F-1 in Appendix B2) is also utilized on application number 5060 in Hill County due to its location within the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation.

VII. Impact Analysis

A. No Action Alternative - Deny the oil and gas lease.

If a lease is denied, the only resource that would be negatively impacted is the loss of revenue from rental and royalty payments to the appropriate trust. All other resources would not be affected.

B. Leasing Alternative

Comments received on potential impacts for these tracts are located in Appendices C, D, and E. MT-DNRC submitted the proposed tract list for agency comments on September 27-28, 2001 and requested comments by October 24, 2001 for consideration in formulating the stipulations. Agency comments are included in Appendix C. The tract list was made available to the public in late September 2001 for interested party comments. These comments must have been received by October 26, 2001 for consideration in formulating the stipulations. Public comments are included in Appendix D. Late comments are located in Appendix E. Tracts nominated for oil and gas leasing and proposed stipulations are listed in Appendix A.

VIII. Need for an Environmental Impact Statement

The DNRC-TLMD is required to evaluate each action to a "level of detail appropriate to the following considerations: ...the complexity of the proposed action,...the environmental sensitivity of the area affected,...the degree of uncertainty that the proposed action will have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment,...and...the need for and complexity of mitigation required to avoid the presence of significant impacts" (ARM 26.2.645 (2)).

Since environmentally sensitive tracts are stipulated for future environmental review with the submittance of an operating plan, all other tracts nominated are located in areas where potential impacts are minor or can be mitigated upon receipt and review of an operating plan, and the BOGC must approve an operating plan within MEPA prior to drilling activity, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the leasing action.

IX. Preparers

Compilation and preparation:

Teresa Kinley, Geologist/Hydrologist, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Trust Land Management Division (TLMD)

Agencies and persons consulted:

Monte Mason, Minerals Management Bureau Chief, DNRC-TLMD
Patrick Rennie, Archeologist, DNRC-TLMD
Craig Roberts, Area Manager, Northeast Land Office, DNRC-TLMD
Mark Ahner, Area Manager, Central Land Office, DNRC-TLMD
Dwayne Andrews, Area Manager, Eastern Land Office, DNRC-TLMD
Bob Dillon, Acting Area Manager, Southern Land Office, DNRC-TLMD
Mike Aderhold, Regional Supervisor, DFWP Region 4
Harvey Nyberg, Regional Supervisor, DFWP Region 5
Jim Satterfield, Regional Supervisor, DFWP Region 6
Don Hyppa, Regional Supervisor, DFWP Region 7
Paul Sihler, Montana Dept. Of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena
Martin Miller, Montana Natural Heritage Program
Kathleen Bockness, Bureau of Land Management, Billings

X. References

Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. 1989. Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Drilling and Production in Montana, (draft: Jan, 1989, final: Dec, 1989).

APPENDIX A: Nominated Tract Locations and Stipulations

STATE OF MONTANA
OIL & GAS LEASE SALE - DECEMBER 4, 2001

PRE-SALE APPLICATION REPORT

APP#	STIP	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
LESSOR: DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION						
BLAINE						
5002	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,11	35.N	20.E	36	ALL	* 640.00
CUSTER						
5003	1,2,3,4,5,7	8.N	45.E	16	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, S2N2, S2	629.48
5004	1,2,3,4,5,7	9.N	45.E	16	ALL	640.00
5005	1,2,3,4,5,7	10.N	45.E	16	ALL	640.00
DANIELS						
5086	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	34.N	46.E	18	LOTS 3, 4, E2SW4, N2NE4, SE4	395.34
5087	1,2,3,4,5,7	34.N	46.E	19	LOT 1, E2NE4, E2NW4	197.79
5088	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	34.N	46.E	20	SE4NE4, NW4, NE4SE4	240.00
FALLON						
5090	1,2,3,4,5,7	4.N	61.E	16	ALL	640.00
5091	1,2,3,4,5,7	4.N	61.E	22	W2	320.00
5092	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,13	6.N	59.E	24	S2N2, SW4	* 320.00
HILL						
5060	2,3,4,5,6,18	30.N	14.E	5	LOTS 1, 3, 4, SE4NE4, S2NW4, SW4	* 399.77
LEWIS & CLARK						
5069	2,3,4,5,6,18	16.N	5.W	16	NW4, W2SW4, SE4SW4, SE4SE4	* 320.00
5070	2,3,4,5,6,19	17.N	6.W	16	LOTS 1 THRU 6, E2SW4, E2	* 628.75
5071	2,3,4,5,6,19	17.N	6.W	36	ALL	* 640.00
5072	2,3,4,5,19	18.N	7.W	16	ALL	640.00
5073	2,3,4,5,19	18.N	7.W	36	ALL	640.00
5094	2,3,4,5,6,19	19.N	6.W	30	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, SE4NE4, NE4NW4, SE4SW4, E2SE4	* 341.56
5074	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	7.W	3	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, S2N2, S2	645.72
5095	2,3,4,5,6,19	19.N	8.W	2	S2SW4	* 80.00
5096	2,3,4,5,6,19	19.N	8.W	3	E2SE4, SW4SW4	* 120.00
5097	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	10	E2NE4	80.00
5098	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	11	N2, SW4	480.00
5099	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	12	NW4SW4	40.00
5100	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	13	NE4NE4, W2E2, SE4NW4, E2SW4	320.00

APP#	STIP	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
5101	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	14	S2SW4	80.00
5075	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	23	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, S2S2	310.20
5076	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	24	NE4, E2NW4, S2	560.00
5077	2,3,4,5,19	19.N	8.W	25	NE4	160.00
5026	1,2,3,4,5,15	20.N	5.W	6	SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	24.00
5027	1,2,3,4,5,15	20.N	5.W	7	SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	4.00
5028	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	20.N	5.W	18	LOTS 1, 4, S2SE4	* 157.00
5029	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	20.N	6.W	1	E2SE4	* 80.00
5030	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	6.W	7	LOTS 2, 3, 4, SE4NW4, E2SW4	226.83
5031	1,2,3,4,5	20.N	6.W	12	SE4SE4	40.00
5032	1,2,3,4,5,7,17	20.N	6.W	13	E2, E2NW4, SW4	560.00
5033	1,2,3,4,5,7	20.N	6.W	14	S2SE4	80.00
5034	1,2,3,4,5,7	20.N	6.W	16	NE4, E2NW4, S2	560.00
5078	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	7.W	28	NE4, SE4SE4	200.00
5079	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	7.W	30	SE4	160.00
5080	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	7.W	31	NE4, NE4SE4	200.00
5081	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	7.W	32	NW4, N2SW4	240.00
5082	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	8.W	2	S2SW4, SW4SE4	120.00
5083	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	8.W	11	W2NE4, W2, N2SE4	480.00
5084	2,3,4,5,19	20.N	8.W	14	N2NW4, SW4NW4, SW4SW4	160.00
5085	2,3,4,5,6,19	20.N	8.W	34	SE4SE4	* 40.00
5102	2,3,4,5,6,19	20.N	8.W	36	NW4, S2	* 480.00
5038	2,3,4,5,15,19	21.N	6.W	6	SE4NW4, NE4SW4, W2SE4, AND SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	168.00
5039	2,3,4,5,15,19	21.N	6.W	7	NW4NE4, S2NE4, NE4NE4, AND SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	172.00
5044	2,3,4,5,6,15,19	21.N	6.W	18	NW4SE4, AND SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	* 46.00
5047	1,2,3,4,5,9,14,15	21.N	6.W	36	ALL	640.00
5048	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	7.W	2	LOT 4, SW4NW4, S2	401.88
5049	2,3,4,5,6,19	21.N	7.W	11	SW4SW4	* 40.00
5050	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	7.W	36	ALL	640.00
PONDERA						
5062	1,2,3,4,5,7,10,11	29.N	4.W	33	S2	320.00
RICHLAND						
5059	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	24.N	56.E	16	ALL	* 640.00
ROSEBUD						
5006	1,2,3,4,5,7	7.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5007	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	7.N	42.E	16	ALL	640.00
5008	1,2,3,4,5,7,9	7.N	43.E	16	ALL	640.00
5009	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	7.N	44.E	16	ALL	640.00
5010	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	8.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5011	1,2,3,4,5,7	8.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00

APP#	STIP	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
5012	1,2,3,4,5,7	8.N	44.E	16	ALL	640.00
5013	1,2,3,4,5,7,12	8.N	44.E	36	ALL	640.00
5065	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	9.N	34.E	16	ALL	640.00
5066	1,2,3,4,5,7,11	9.N	34.E	36	ALL	640.00
5067	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	9.N	35.E	16	ALL	640.00
5068	1,2,3,4,5,7	9.N	35.E	36	ALL	640.00
5014	1,2,3,4,5,7	9.N	40.E	36	ALL	640.00
5015	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	9.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5016	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	9.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00
5017	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	9.N	44.E	16	ALL	640.00
5018	1,2,3,4,5,7	9.N	44.E	36	ALL	640.00
5019	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	10.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5020	1,2,3,4,5,7,10,11,12	10.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00
5021	1,2,3,4,5,7	10.N	44.E	16	ALL	640.00
5022	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	10.N	44.E	36	ALL	640.00
5023	1,2,3,4,5,7,11,12	11.N	40.E	36	ALL	640.00
5024	1,2,3,4,5,7,10,11,12	11.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5025	1,2,3,4,5,7,10	11.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00

SHERIDAN

5061	1,2,3,4,5,7,13	31.N	58.E	16	W2	320.00
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STILLWATER

5089	1,2,3,4,5,16	1.N	21.E	36	ALL	640.00
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TETON

5035	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	6.W	3	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4	161.52
5036	2,3,4,5,6,19	21.N	6.W	4	LOT 3, SE4NW4, N2SW4, SE4SW4, S2SE4	280.63
5037	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	6.W	5	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, SE4NE4, S2NW4, NE4SE4	322.00
5040	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	6.W	8	NE4, N2S2	320.00
5041	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	6.W	9	NE4NE4, S2NE4, E2NW4, N2S2	360.00
5042	1,2,3,4,5,7	21.N	6.W	14	W2W2	160.00
5043	2,3,4,5,19	21.N	6.W	16	ALL	640.00
5045	1,2,3,4,5,7	21.N	6.W	22	S2SW4	80.00
5046	1,2,3,4,5,7	21.N	6.W	23	W2W2	160.00
5051	2,3,4,5,6,19	22.N	6.W	20	E2SE4	80.00
5052	2,3,4,5,19	22.N	6.W	28	W2E2, NW4, N2SW4, SE4SW4	440.00
5053	2,3,4,5,6,8,19	22.N	6.W	29	E2E2	160.00
5054	2,3,4,5,19	22.N	6.W	32	E2E2	160.00
5055	2,3,4,5,19	22.N	6.W	33	E2W2, SW4NW4	200.00
5056	2,3,4,5,19	22.N	7.W	13	NW4NE4	40.00
5057	2,3,4,5,15,19	22.N	7.W	35	N2SW4, AND SUN RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE	100.00
5058	2,3,4,5,15,19	22.N	7.W	36	ALL	640.00
5103	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	2	S2SW4	80.00
5104	2,3,4,5,19	27.N	7.W	3	E2SE4, SW4SW4	120.00
5105	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	4	SE4NE4, E2SE4	120.00
5106	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	7	LOT 2, SE4NW4, N2SE4	159.02

APP#	STIP	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION		ACRES
5107	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	8	SW4NW4, NW4SW4, S2S2	*	240.00
5108	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	9	E2SE4	*	80.00
5109	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	10	SW4NW4, NW4SW4	*	80.00
5110	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	13	NW4NW4, S2SW4, SE4SE4	*	160.00
5111	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	14	E2NE4, SW4NE4, NE4SW4, SW4SW4, NW4SE4, SE4SE4	*	280.00
5112	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	15	NW4NE4, SE4NW4, E2SW4, SW4SE4	*	200.00
5113	2,3,4,5,19	27.N	7.W	16	ALL		640.00
5114	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	17	S2N2, SW4SW4, S2SE4	*	280.00
5115	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	18	S2NE4, SE4SE4	*	120.00
5116	2,3,4,5,19	27.N	7.W	19	LOTS 3, 4, N2NE4, SW4NE4, SE4NW4, E2SW4		319.20
5117	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	21	E2NE4	*	80.00
5118	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	22	E2NW4, W2NE4, SE4SE4	*	200.00
5119	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	23	NW4	*	160.00
5120	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	27	NW4NE4, NE4NW4, SW4NW4, NE4SW4, NW4SE4, SE4SE4	*	240.00
5121	2,3,4,5,6,19	27.N	7.W	30	LOT 4	*	38.79
5122	2,3,4,5,19	27.N	8.W	24	S2SE4		80.00

TOOLE

5001	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	30.N	1.E	2	LOTS 1, 2, S2NE4	*	159.06
5093	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,14	32.N	2.E	24	E2E2, NW4NE4 (SUBJECT TO 70-16-201, MCA)	*	200.00

TREASURE

5063	1,2,3,4,5,7,11	8.N	35.E	16	ALL		640.00
5064	1,2,3,4,5,7	8.N	36.E	16	ALL		640.00

* Part or all of the tract is not state-owned surface.

STIPULATIONS

1. Lessee shall notify and obtain approval from the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) prior to constructing well pads, roads, power lines, and related facilities that may require surface disturbance on the tract. Lessee shall comply with any mitigation measures stipulated in TLMD's approval.
2. Prior to the drilling of any well, lessee shall send one copy of the well prognosis, including Form 22 "Application for Permit" to the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD). After a well is drilled and completed, lessee shall send one copy of all logs run, Form 4A "Completion Report", and geologic report to TLMD. A copy of Form 2 "Sundry Notice and Report of Wells" or other appropriate Board of Oil and Gas Conservation form shall be sent to TLMD whenever any subsequent change in well status or operator is intended or has occurred. Lessee shall also notify and obtain approval from the TLMD prior to plugging a well on the lease premises.

Issuance of this lease in no way commits the Land Board to approval of coal bed methane production on this lease. Any coal bed methane extraction wells would require subsequent review and approval by the board.

3. The TLMD will complete an initial review for cultural resources and, where applicable, paleontological resources of the area intended for disturbance and may require a resources inventory. Based on the results of the inventory, the TLMD may restrict surface activity for the purpose of protecting significant resources located on the lease premises.
4. The lessee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by lessee's activity on State-owned land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto land adjoining the lease premises.
5. The definitions of "oil" and "gas" provided in 82-1-111, MCA, do not apply to this lease for royalty calculation purposes.
6. Lessee must contact the owner of the surface in writing at least 30 days prior to any surface activity. A copy of the correspondence shall be sent to TLMD.
7. No activity shall be allowed within 100 feet of any perennial or seasonal stream, pond, lake, prairie potholes, wetland, spring, reservoir, well, aqueduct, irrigation ditch, canal, or related facilities without prior approval of the TLMD.
8. The lessee is responsible to pay for all damages, including penalties and charges assessed by the USDA-CFSA on CRP lands, as a result of drilling and production on the tract. All damages will be assessed by and paid directly to the TLMD.
9. Wooded areas on this tract will be avoided unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD.
10. Due to unstable soil conditions on this tract and/or topography that is rough and/or steep, surface use may be restricted or denied. Seismic activity may be restricted to poltershots.
11. Wildlife species of concern have been identified on or near this tract. A survey in areas of proposed activity may be required prior to disturbance. Identified species will be avoided, unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD. Additional mitigation measures may also be required.

STIPULATIONS

12. Potential wildlife conflicts have been identified for this tract. The TLMD will contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks office in the area for advice on alleviating any possible conflicts caused by lessee's proposed activities. Additional mitigation measures may be required.
13. Plant species of concern have been identified on or near this tract. A vegetation survey in areas of proposed activity will be required prior to disturbance. Identified rare plant species will be avoided, unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD.
14. Any activity within 1/8 mile of the river or lake/reservoir on or adjacent to this tract must be approved in writing by the TLMD prior to commencement. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of the river, abandoned channels, the bed of the lake/reservoir, or on islands and accretions associated with the river or lake/reservoir.
15. This tract contains navigable river beds. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of the navigable river, abandoned channels, or on islands and accretions. In addition, upon completion of a successful well, where river title is disputed, the lessee will file an interpleader action under Rule 22, M.R.Civ.P. in the Montana District Court in which the leased lands are located for all acreage within the lease in which the title is disputed. The lessee shall name all potential royalty claimants as defendants.
16. This tract has (an) existing well(s) and related facilities. The lessee has 45 days from the effective date of this lease to determine whether or not to assume responsibility from the former lessee for the well(s) and any existing facilities. The lessee may not enter the well until a change of operator has been filed with, and approved by, the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation.
17. Due to existing surface uses (such as center pivots, wheel lines, etc.) development on this tract may be restricted.
18. This lease includes areas that may be environmentally sensitive. Therefore, if the lessee intends to conduct any activities on the lease premises, the lessee shall submit to TLMD one copy of an Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan, describing in detail the proposed activities. No activities shall occur on the tract until the Operating Plan or Amendments have been approved in writing by the Director of the Department. TLMD shall review the Operating Plan or Amendment and notify the lessee if the Plan or Amendment is approved or disapproved.

After an opportunity for an informal hearing with the lessee, surface activity may be denied or restricted on all or portions of any tract if the Director determines in writing that the proposed surface activity will be detrimental to trust resources and therefore not in the best interests of the trust.

19. This lease is located near the Rocky Mountain Front and includes areas that are environmentally sensitive. Therefore, except as otherwise provided below, the lessee shall not conduct any surface operations on the lease premises. If the lessee determines that surface operation on the lease premises may be required, the lessee shall submit a proposed Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan to the State Board of Land Commissioners describing in detail the proposed operations. No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board. In determining whether to approve the proposed Operating Plan or Amendment, the following provisions shall apply:

STIPULATIONS

1) If the lessee proposes an activity that does not entail any significant surface disturbance, the Board may approve the same after completion of the appropriate environmental review in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed activity has been provided.

2) Before the Board approves any proposed activity on the lease premises that entails a significant disturbance, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be completed in accordance with MEPA. The EIS shall analyze the potential impacts of alternative and future potential levels of oil and gas development and extraction on an ecosystem scale as the ecosystem is defined by the "Limits of Acceptable Change - Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex" adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in December 1991. The analysis shall consider all relevant information, which may include, but is not limited to, existing environmental reviews and management plans. Public involvement in the environmental review process shall be actively solicited by the preparer of the environmental review document and shall include, at minimum, adequately noticed public meetings in at least three communities including Great Falls and Helena.

3) The proposed surface activity shall adhere to the "Interagency Rocky Mountain Front, Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program, Management Guidelines for Selected Species" adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in September 1987, or any successor guidelines thereto.

4) The Board may refuse to approve any proposed surface operations if it determines that they do not constitute the best use of trust resources or are not in the best interest of the State of Montana.

* Part or all of the tract is not state-owned surface.

Sight drafts will not be accepted. The State Board of Land Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All payments are due within ten days after date of sale.

An Environmental Assessment is available upon request from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601.

Individuals with disabilities needing assistance or special services, please call Julie David at (406) 444-4576 at least 1 week prior to the sale.

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

APPENDIX B1: Example Oil and Gas Lease.

State of Montana

OIL AND GAS LEASE

No. _____

THIS INDENTURE OF LEASE, entered into between the State of Montana, through its Board of Land Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as lessor, and the person, company, or corporation herein named, hereinafter referred to as lessee, pursuant to the provisions of Title 77, Chapter 3, Part 4, M.C.A., and all acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, WITNESSETH:

1. GRANTING CLAUSE—The lessor, in consideration of the annual rentals herein stated, the receipt of which for the first year of this lease is hereby acknowledged, the royalties to be paid, and the covenants to be kept and performed by the lessee, hereinafter set forth, hereby grants, demises, leases and lets to the lessee, for the purpose of mining and operating for oil and gas, and of laying pipelines, building tanks, power stations, and other structures thereon necessary in order to produce, save, care for, dispose of and remove the oil and gas, all the lands herein described, as follows:

Date this lease takes effect:

Name of Lessee:

Address:

Land Located in:

County:

Description of land:

Total number of acres, more or less, _____, belonging to _____ Grant.

Annual rental, payable each year in advance:

2. TERM AND HORIZONTAL SEGREGATION—This lease is granted for a primary term of ten years and so long thereafter as oil and gas in paying quantities shall be produced from the land, subject to all of the terms and conditions herein set forth; provided, however, that:

- (a) The extended term of this lease shall apply only to those formations discovered, developed or drilled during the primary term of ten years, and the interest of the lessee in the premises herein described shall thereafter be limited to such formations.
- (b) If oil and gas in paying quantities is discovered in an offset well on a contiguous section during the extended term of this lease in any formation in the zone between the deepest formation to which the lessee drilled during the primary term of this lease and the deepest formation in which oil or gas has been discovered on the leased premises, this lease shall terminate as to said zone unless, within 60 days after the completion of such offset well, the lessee shall commence operations to test such a formation.

IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD, AGREED AND COVENANTED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THIS LEASE AS FOLLOWS:

3. LEASE EXTENSION—The Board of Land Commissioners may grant reasonable extensions of the primary term of this lease upon a showing that lessee, despite due care and diligence, is or has been directly or indirectly prevented from exploring, developing, or operating this lease or is threatened with substantial economic loss due to litigation regarding this lease or another lease in the immediate area held by the lessee, state compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act, or adverse conditions caused by natural occurrences.

4. LAND DISPOSITIONS—The lessor expressly reserves the right to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any interest or estate in the lands hereby leased, except the interest conveyed by this lease. However, lessor agrees that sales, leases, or other dispositions of any interest or estate in the lands hereby leased shall be subject to the terms of this lease, and shall not interfere with the lessee's possession or rights hereunder.

5. RENTAL—The lessee shall pay to the lessor an annual money rental in the amount hereinabove stated being not less than one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for each acre of land held under this lease from year to year, provided, however, that the amount of such money rental so payable shall in no case be less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per annum. The first year's rental must be paid before the issuance of the lease. The rentals for each subsequent year of the lease shall be due and payable before the beginning of such subsequent lease year. Upon failure to make the rental payment, the lease terminates unless there is a well currently being drilled, a producing well, or a shut-in well approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division (Department) on the lease. Rental paid for any year must be credited against any royalty that accrues during that year.

6. ROYALTY ON OIL—The lessee shall pay in money or in kind to the lessor at its option as hereinafter provided during the full term of this lease a royalty of 13%, free of all costs and deductions, on the average production of the oil from producing wells under this lease for each calendar month.

7. ROYALTY ON GAS—The lessee shall also pay in money or in kind to the lessor at its option as hereinafter provided during the full term of this lease, free of costs and deductions, a royalty on the gas produced from the wells under this lease whether the wells produce oil and gas or gas alone, of twelve and one-half percentum (12½%).

8. **SHUT IN GAS ROYALTY**—The royalty on gas, including casinghead gas and all gaseous substances not sold or used off the premises, must be at the rate of \$400 per lease each year or the amount of the annual rental provided in the lease, whichever is the greater, payable on or before the annual anniversary date of the lease. As long as the leased lands contain a well capable of production in paying quantities and the requisite payment is made, the lease must be considered as a producing lease under the terms herein.

9. **ROYALTIES BASED ON PRODUCTION**—All royalties shall be calculated upon the total amount produced and saved under this lease exclusive of oil and/or gas used for light, fuel or operating purposes in connection with the work on the lands under the lease.

10. **FULL PRODUCTION REQUIRED**—All wells under this lease shall be so drilled, maintained and operated as to produce the maximum amount of oil and/or gas which can be secured without injury to wells and the aforesaid royalties shall be based and calculated on such full production of oil and/or gas.

11. **ROYALTY PAYMENT**—The lessee shall pay to the lessor in cash for such royalty oil and gas at the rate of the posted field price therefor existing on the day such oil or gas was run into any pipeline or storage tank to the credit of the lessee plus any bonus or other increase in price actually paid or agreed to be paid to the lessee.

12. **IN-KIND OIL OR GAS**—At the option of the lessor exercised not more frequently than once every thirty days by notice in writing the lessee shall deliver the State's royalty oil or gas free of cost or deductions into the pipeline to which the wells of the lessee may be connected or into any storage designated by the State and connected with such wells. The lessee shall not be required to furnish storage for the State's royalty oil for more than thirty (30) days following the date of production thereof when a market therefor is available.

13. **FAIR MARKET VALUE**—In all cases where there is no posted field price for oil or gas produced under this lease, the payments in cash for the royalties payable hereunder shall never be less than the fair market value thereof, for oil, at the wells where produced on the day it is run into the pipeline or storage tanks, and for gas, at the well where produced on the day produced. It is agreed that helium gas, carbon dioxide gas, and all other natural gases are included under the term "gas" as used in this lease.

14. **LIENS ON PRODUCTION**—The lessor shall have a first lien upon all oil or gas produced from the lands leased hereunder, to secure the payment of all unpaid royalty and other sums of money that may become due under the terms herein.

15. **POOLING AND UNITIZATION**—Upon receiving the written consent of the lessor, the lessee shall have the right to commit the lands hereby leased to a pooling, unit, cooperative or other plan of development or operation with other State lands, Federal lands, privately-owned lands or Indian lands. Such agreements shall not change the percentage of royalties to be paid to the state from the percentages as fixed herein. Oil or gas produced from any lands included in such an agreement which encompasses the lands hereby leased are considered to be produced from the lands hereby leased.

16. **FARM LOAN ACQUISITIONS**—If the land under this lease is "mortgaged land" acquired by the State in connection with a mortgage given to the State as security for a loan and such mortgage land has been sold by the State subsequent to July 1, 1927, and prior to February 26, 1929, the lessee shall pay directly to the holder of such land under certificate of purchase or other contract, or deed from the State, a royalty of one percentum (1%) of the oil and gas produced from such land to be calculated on the same basis and in the same manner as the royalty to be paid to the State, but the said royalty of one percentum shall be deducted from the royalty to be paid to the State so that such one percentum royalty does not increase the total royalty to be paid under this lease, and if such mortgage land was sold by the State between March 15, 1935, and July 1, 1961, the lessee shall pay directly to the holder of such land under certificate of purchase or other contract or deed from the State, a royalty of six and one-fourth percentum (6¼%) of the oil and gas produced from such land to be calculated as hereinbefore specified.

17. **DELAY DRILLING PENALTY**—Unless this lease is surrendered, is terminated by lessee's failure to pay rentals when due, or is terminated by the Board of Land Commissioners because of the failure of the lessee to comply with the express and implied covenants of this lease, the Board of Land Commissioners may, in its discretion and as provided by law, cancel and terminate this lease upon the failure of the lessee (1) to commence within five (5) years of the effective date of this lease, drilling of at least one well upon the leased premises of such diameter and to such depth as may be necessary to make a reasonable test for oil and gas; or (2) pay in advance a delay drilling penalty of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per acre for the sixth year of the lease in addition to the annual rental; or (3) pay in advance a delay drilling penalty of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per acre per annum for the seventh through the tenth year of the lease in addition to the annual rental. The lessee shall notify the Department of the commencement of drilling of any well within five (5) days after the well is spudded in. The Board shall refund delay drilling penalties paid on a lease for any year in which the lessee commences drilling on that lease.

18. **DRY HOLE CLAUSE**—Following the termination of the fourth year of this lease, if the lessee drills a dry hole on the lease premises prior to discovery of oil or gas or if after discovery of oil or gas, production thereof in paying quantities ceases, the lease may be terminated by the Board unless the lessee (1) commences drilling of another well for oil and/or gas before the 7th year of this lease or second anniversary of the lease following completion of the well, whichever comes later, or (2) unless the lessee, on or before such anniversary date resumes payment of any delay drilling penalties imposed by the Board. For purposes of this lease "dry hole" is defined as a completed well which is not capable of producing oil and/or gas in paying quantities when completed.

19. **DRILLING EXTENSION**—If at the expiration of the primary term hereof oil or gas is not being produced from the lease premises in paying quantities, but the owner of the lease is then engaged in drilling on the premises for oil and gas, then the lease continues in effect so long as such drilling operations are being diligently prosecuted. If oil or gas is recovered from any such well drilled or being drilled at or after the expiration of the primary term hereof, the lease continues in effect so long as oil or gas in paying quantities is being produced from the leased premises.

20. **DUE DILIGENCE**—Upon completion of a commercially productive oil or gas well upon the leased premises, the lessee shall proceed with reasonable diligence to drill such additional wells to the depth of the formation found commercially productive, or to such depth as may be necessary to economically test, develop and operate the deposits discovered.

21. **OFFSET PROTECTION**—The lessee shall commence promptly and diligently drill to completion all wells necessary on the lands under this lease in order to fairly offset commercially producing oil or gas wells on contiguous lands or pay a compensatory royalty.

22. **WASTE PROHIBITED**—In conducting all explorations, mining or drilling operations under this lease, the lessee shall exercise all reasonable care and precautions in order to prevent waste of oil and gas. The lessee shall also at all times use all reasonable care and precautions to prevent the entrance of water to the oil or gas bearing strata to the destruction or injury thereof.

23. **LOGS REQUIRED**—The lessee agrees to keep a correct log of each well drilled under this lease, showing the formations passed through, the depth at which such formation was reached, the thickness of each formation, the water-bearing formations and the character of water therein, the elevations to which the water rises, the number of feet of casing set in such well and where placed, its size and the total depth to which such well was drilled; and upon request, to file the log with the Department.

24. **PROGRESS REPORTS REQUIRED**—When called upon to do so, the lessee shall also file progress reports with the Department before the completion or abandonment of any well.

25. **PRODUCTION REPORTS AND PAYMENT OF ROYALTY**—The lessee further agrees on or before the last day of each month to make a report to the Department for operations covering the preceding calendar month, which report shall be in such form as the Department may prescribe and shall show the amount of oil or gas produced and saved during the preceding calendar month, the price obtained therefor, the total amount of all sales, whether any bonus or other increase in price was actually paid or agreed to be paid and such additional information as may be required. Such report shall be signed by the lessee or by some responsible person having knowledge of the facts contained therein. The report shall be accompanied by payment of the amount due the State as royalty for the month covered by the report where payment is required in money in place of oil or gas.

26. **COMPLETION REPORTS REQUIRED**—When the lessee is required by the rules of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to file a well completion report with that board, lessee shall file one copy of that report with the Department.

27. **LESSOR'S RIGHT TO INSPECT**—Representatives of the lessor shall at all times have the right to enter upon the granted premises and all parts thereof for the purpose of inspecting and examining the same, as well as supervising tests that they may deem necessary to ascertain the condition of the wells being drilled or about to be abandoned and gauging the production of producing wells. Representatives of the lessor shall also, at all reasonable hours, have free access to all books, accounts, records and papers of the lessee insofar as they contain information relating to the production obtained under this lease, the price obtained therefor, and the fair market value of the production. Lessor shall also have free access to agreements relating to production hereunder.

28. **SURFACE OWNER'S OR LESSEE'S RIGHTS**—The lessee hereunder agrees to provide the surface owner and surface lessee with a plan for location of all facilities and consult with the surface owner and surface lessee regarding a reasonable location of access roads. In all operations on the land hereby leased, lessee agrees to interfere as little as possible with the use of the premises for any other purpose to which the same may be devoted by other persons to whom the land may have been leased or sold by the State. The lessee shall not drill any well upon the lands hereby leased, within two hundred feet (200') of any residence or barn now or hereafter erected thereon without the consent of the owner of such building. The lessee hereby agrees to make satisfactory adjustment with the owner or lessee of the surface, including the State of Montana, for damages sustained by such surface owner, the lessee, or the State of Montana by reason of the lessee's entry upon, use and occupancy of, the surface of the land. If amicable determination of damages cannot be made between such surface owner, lessee, or the State of Montana and the lessee hereunder, then, upon the agreement of the surface owner or lessee to enter into arbitration, the damages to be paid to the surface owner or lessee shall be fixed by a board of arbitrators of three persons, to be appointed as follows: one by the State of Montana or the owner or lessee of the surface who is claiming damages, one by the lessee hereunder, and the third by the two arbitrators so appointed. The lessee hereby agrees to make prompt payment of the damages awarded by such board of arbitrators.

In any case where the owner of the surface claims title under a "C" patent issued by the State of Montana, and demands that the Board fix, allow and pay the owner the reasonable value of any right of way established by the lessee hereunder, the Department shall charge the cost of fixing the amount of damages to the lessee hereunder. The lessee hereunder shall pay the reasonable sum so fixed as damages to the Board, which will pay the surface owner.

29. **ASSIGNMENTS**—The lessee may assign this lease either in whole or as to any regular subdivision thereof, embracing not less than forty (40) acres, to any qualified assignee, providing that such assignment shall not be binding upon the State until it has been filed with the Department accompanied by the required fees. No assignment to two or more assignees will be approved until one of the assignees is designated to act as agent for the assignees.

30. **RELINQUISHMENTS**—The lessee shall have the right at the termination of any rental year, by giving at least thirty (30) days previous notice in writing to the Department, to surrender and relinquish any legal subdivisions of the land hereby leased and thereupon be discharged from any obligation not theretofore accrued as to the lands so surrendered and relinquished. When this lease terminates as to any portion less than the whole of the lands covered hereby, because of the lessee's failure to pay rental when due, lessee agrees to submit to the lessor, within thirty (30) days after such termination, a written surrender and relinquishment of those lands.

31. **CANCELLATION**—It is understood and agreed that the lessor hereby reserves the right to declare this lease forfeited and to cancel the same through the Board of Land Commissioners upon failure of the lessee to fully discharge all the obligations provided herein, after written notice from the Board and reasonable time fixed and allowed by it to the lessee for the performance of any undertaking or obligation specified in such notice concerning which the lessee is in default. The lessee, upon written application therefor, shall be granted a hearing on any notice or demand of the Board before the lease shall be declared forfeited or canceled. The provisions of this clause shall not in any way affect an automatic termination of this lease caused by lessee's failure to pay rental when due.

32. **SURRENDER POSSESSION**—Upon the termination of this lease for any cause the lessee shall surrender possession of the leased premises to the lessor subject to lessee's right to re-enter, hereby granted, at any time within six months after the date of such termination, for the purpose of removing all machinery, fixtures, improvements, buildings and equipment belonging to the lessee remaining upon the premises except casing in wells and other equipment or apparatus necessary for the preservation of any oil or gas well or wells. It is hereby agreed that any succeeding lessee, or in the event there be no succeeding lessee, the lessor, wishing to have such property left permanently upon the premises, shall pay the reasonable value thereof, in cash, to the lessee, but if the succeeding lessee or the lessor, acting through its Board of Land Commissioners, shall be unable to agree with the lessee upon the reasonable cash value of such casing, equipment and apparatus, then the succeeding lessee or the lessor herein, as the case may be, shall pay in cash to the lessee hereunder, such sum as may be fixed as a reasonable price by a board of three appraisers, one of whom shall be chosen by the succeeding lessee or the State of Montana as the case may be, one by the lessee hereunder, and the third by the two chosen, and whose appraisal shall be reported to the respective parties, in writing, and is final and conclusive. If the lessee or succeeding lessee refuses to appoint an appraiser within fifteen (15) days of a request to do so by the Department, the Department may appoint an appraiser for the lessee or succeeding lessee. Unless the Department gives written authorization, the lessee may not remain in possession or manage the land and property formerly covered by the lease. During the time the lessee remains in authorized possession, the lessee shall be entitled to retain the same share of the products of the lands as inured to the lessee during the term of this lease. Should the lessor herein or any succeeding lessee not desire any of the lessee's property permanently left upon the premises, as provided in this paragraph, the lessee shall properly plug all non-producing wells and remove all of his property from the lands with reasonable diligence. If any of the property of the lessee is not removed from the leased premises within six months of the termination date of the lease as herein provided the same shall be deemed forfeited to the State of Montana and shall become its property.

33. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**—The lessee agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in effect at the date of this lease, particularly the Rules Governing the Issuance of Oil and Gas Leases on State Lands of the State of Montana. The lessee agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations which may, from time to time, be adopted and which do not impair the obligations of this contract and which do not deprive the lessee of an existing property right recognized by law.

34. **WARRANTY OF TITLE**—It is understood and agreed that this lease is issued only under such title as the State of Montana may now have or hereafter acquire, and that the lessor shall not be liable for any damages sustained by the lessee, nor shall the lessee be entitled to or claim any refund of rentals or royalties theretofore paid to the lessor in the event the lessor does not have the title to the oil and gas in the leased lands. If the lessor owns a lesser interest in the leased lands than the entire and undivided fee simple estate in underlying oil and gas for which rental and royalty is payable, then the rentals and royalties herein provided shall be paid the lessor only in the proportion which its interest bears to the whole and undivided fee simple estate in the oil and gas for which royalty is payable.

35. **LEGAL FEES**—In the event lessor shall institute and prevail in any action or suit for the enforcement of any provisions of this lease, lessee will pay to lessor a reasonable sum for costs incurred on account thereof.

36. **SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

SEE EXHIBIT "A" (Tract-Specific Stipulations Attached)

37. **EXECUTING PARTIES BOUND**—All covenants and agreements herein set forth between the parties hereto shall extend to and bind their successors, heirs, executors and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the State of Montana and the lessee have caused this lease to be executed in duplicate and the Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, pursuant to the authority granted him by the Board of Land Commissioners of the State of Montana, has hereunto set his hand and affixed the seal of the Board of Land Commissioners this _____

day of _____

Lessee

Director of the Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation

Address

APPENDIX B2: Example Stipulations for Oil and Gas Leasing.

Stipulations marked with (*) are placed on all leases.

Notification

- A-1. Lessee shall notify and obtain approval from the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) prior to constructing well pads, roads, power lines, and related facilities that may require surface disturbance on the tract. Lessee shall comply with any mitigation measures stipulated in TLMD's approval.
- *A-2. Prior to the drilling of any well, lessee shall send one copy of the well prognosis, including Form 22 "Application for Permit" to the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD). After a well is drilled and completed, lessee shall send one copy of all logs run, Form 4A "Completion Report", and geologic report to TLMD. A copy of Form 2 "Sundry Notice and Report of Wells" or other appropriate Board of Oil and Gas Conservation form shall be sent to TLMD whenever any subsequent change in well status or operator, is intended or has occurred. Lessee shall also notify and obtain approval from the TLMD prior to plugging a well on the lease premises.

Issuance of this lease in no way commits the Land Board to approval of coal bed methane production on this lease. Any coal bed methane extraction wells would require subsequent review and approval by the board.

Cultural

- *B. The TLMD will complete an initial review for cultural resources and, where applicable, paleontological resources of the area intended for disturbance and may require a resources inventory. Based on the results of the inventory, the TLMD may restrict surface activity for the purpose of protecting significant resources located on the lease premises.

Weeds

- *C. The lessee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by Lessee's activity on State-owned land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto land adjoining the lease premises.

Royalty Calculation

- *D. The definitions of "oil" and "gas" provided in 82-1-111, MCA, do not apply to this lease for royalty calculation purposes.

CRP Land and Damages

- E. The lessee is responsible to pay for all damages, including penalties and charges assessed by the USDA-CFSA on CRP lands, as a result of drilling and production on the tract. All damages will be assessed by and paid directly to the TLMD.

Sensitive Areas

- F-1. This lease includes areas that may be environmentally sensitive. Therefore, if the lessee intends to conduct any activities on the lease premises, the lessee shall submit to TLMD one copy of an Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan, describing in detail the proposed activities. No activities shall occur on the tract until the Operating Plan or Amendments have been approved in writing by the Director of the Department. TLMD shall review the Operating Plan or Amendment and notify the lessee if the Plan or Amendment is approved or disapproved.

After an opportunity for an informal hearing with the lessee, surface activity may be denied or restricted on all or portions of any tract if the Director determines in writing that the proposed surface activity will be detrimental to trust resources and therefore not in the best interests of the trust.

F-2. This lease is located near the Rocky Mountain Front and includes areas that are environmentally sensitive. Therefore, except as otherwise provided below, the lessee shall not conduct any surface operations on the lease premises. If the lessee determines that surface operation on the lease premises may be required, the lessee shall submit a proposed Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan to the State Board of Land Commissioners describing in detail the proposed operations. No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board. In determining whether to approve the proposed Operating Plan or Amendment, the following provisions shall apply:

- 1) If the lessee proposes an activity that does not entail any significant surface disturbance, the Board may approve the same after completion of the appropriate environmental review in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed activity has been provided.

- 2) Before the Board approves any proposed activity on the lease premises that entails a significant surface disturbance, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be completed in accordance with MEPA. The EIS shall analyze the potential impacts of alternative and future potential levels of oil and gas development and extraction on an ecosystem scale as the ecosystem is defined by the "Limits of Acceptable Change--Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex" adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks in December 1991. The analysis shall consider all relevant information, which may include, but is not limited to, existing environmental reviews and management plans. Public involvement in the environmental review process shall be actively solicited by the preparer of the environmental review document and shall include, at minimum, adequately noticed public meetings in at least three communities including Great Falls and Helena.

- 3) The proposed surface activity shall adhere to the "Interagency Rocky Mountain Front, Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program, Management Guidelines for Selected Species" adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks in September 1987, or any successor guidelines thereto.

- 4) The Board may refuse to approve any proposed surface operations if it determines that they do not constitute the best use of trust resources or are not in the best interest of the State of Montana.

F-3. This lease is located within or adjacent to the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Area, the Beartooth State Wildlife Management Area, and/or the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and includes areas that are environmentally sensitive. Therefore, except as otherwise provided below, the lessee shall not conduct any surface operations on the lease premises. If the lessee determines that surface operation on the lease premises may be required, the lessee shall submit a proposed Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan to the State Board of Land Commissioners describing in detail the proposed operations. No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board. In determining whether to approve the proposed Operating Plan or Amendment, the following provisions shall apply:

1) If the lessee proposes an activity that does not entail any significant surface disturbance, the Board may approve the same after completion of the appropriate environmental review in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed activity has been provided.

2) Before the Board approves any proposed activity on the lease premises that entails a significant surface disturbance, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be completed in accordance with MEPA. The EIS shall analyze the potential impacts of alternative and future potential levels of oil and gas development and extraction on an ecosystem scale. The analysis shall consider all relevant information, which may include, but is not limited to, existing environmental reviews and management plans. Public involvement in the environmental review process shall be actively solicited by the preparer of the environmental review document and shall include, at minimum, adequately noticed public meetings in at least two communities including Great Falls and Helena.

3) The Board may refuse to approve any proposed surface operations if it determines that they do not constitute the best use of trust resources or are not in the best interest of the State of Montana.

Navigable Rivers

G. This tract contains navigable river beds. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of the navigable river, abandoned channels, or on islands and accretions. In addition, upon completion of a successful well, where river title is disputed, the lessee will file an interpleader action under Rule 22, M.R.Civ.P. in the Montana District Court in which the leased lands are located for all acreage within the lease in which the title is disputed. The lessee shall name all potential royalty claimants as defendants.

Surface not State Owned

H. Lessee must contact the owner of the surface in writing at least 30 days prior to any surface activity. A copy of the correspondence shall be sent to TLMD.

No Surface Occupancy

I. No surface occupancy shall be allowed on this tract unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director of DNRC.

J. No surface occupancy shall be allowed on any portion of this tract which is indicated as right-of-way on the official highway plans on file at the Department of Transportation in Helena, Montana without prior written approval from TLMD.

Existing Production Restrictions

K. Lessee will need to make settlement for the value of the equipment with previous lessee. A copy of this settlement will be sent to the TLMD for their records.

Existing Facilities

- L-1. This tract has (an) existing well(s) and related facilities. The lessee has 45 days from the effective date of this lease to determine whether or not to assume responsibility from the former lessee for the well and any existing facilities. The lessee may not enter the well until a change of operator has been filed with, and approved by, the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation.
- L-2. This tract has an existing well and related facilities. The lessee has 45 days from the effective date of this lease to determine whether or not to assume responsibility from the former lessee for the well and any existing facilities. The lessee may not enter the well until a change of operator has been filed with, and approved by, the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. This well must be returned to commercial production or plugged and the wellsite reclaimed within 18 months from the effective date of this lease.

Drainage Occurring

- M. It is the opinion of the TLMD that drainage is occurring on the land described in this lease and that if a well is not drilled within two years after this lease is issued the department will consider cancellation of the lease for failure to drill an offset well.

Forested Tracts - Timber

- N. Prior to the cutting or removal of timber on these tracts for exploration or development related activities, the lessee shall acquire the approval of the appropriate TLMD area office.

Wildlife Restrictions

- O. To protect wildlife during periods important to their survival, surface occupancy or other activity shall be restricted from March 15 through July 15 of each year unless otherwise authorized in writing by the TLMD.
- P-1. Potential wildlife conflicts have been identified for this tract. The TLMD will contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks office in the area for advice on alleviating any possible conflicts caused by lessee's proposed activities. Additional mitigation measures may be required.
- P-2. Potential wildlife conflicts have been identified for this tract. The TLMD will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in the area for advice on alleviating any possible conflicts caused by lessee's proposed activities. Additional mitigation measures may be required.
- Q. Wildlife species of concern have been identified on or near this tract. A survey in areas of proposed activity may be required prior to disturbance. Identified species will be avoided, unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD. Additional mitigation measures may also be required.

Miscellaneous Restrictions

- R. Any activity within 1/8 mile of the river or lake/reservoir on or adjacent to this tract must be approved in writing by the TLMD prior to commencement. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of the river, abandoned channels, the bed of the lake/reservoir, or on islands and accretions associated with the river or lake/reservoir.

- S. No activity shall be allowed within 100 feet of any perennial or seasonal stream, pond, lake, prairie pothole, wetland, spring, reservoir, well, aqueduct, irrigation ditch, canal, or related facilities without prior approval of the TLMD.
- T. Due to unstable soil conditions on this tract and/or topography that is rough and/or steep, surface use may be restricted or denied. Seismic activity may be restricted to poltershots.
- U. Due to existing surface uses (such as center pivots, wheel lines, etc.) development on this tract may be restricted.
- V. Plant species of concern have been identified on or near this tract. A vegetation survey in areas of proposed activity will be required prior to disturbance. Identified rare plant species will be avoided, unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD.
- W. A critical weed problem exists on this tract. Additional mitigation measures will be required to prevent further spread of noxious weeds. The department may require such measures as power washing of vehicles, car pooling, timing restrictions for seismic, etc. to facilitate this prevention.
- X. This tract contains biological weed-control sites which must be avoided unless otherwise authorized by TLMD.
- Y. No surface occupancy of the cemetery site is permitted without written approval of TLMD.
- Z. Wooded areas on this tract will be avoided unless otherwise authorized by the TLMD.
- AA. No surface occupancy of the school area and/or related facilities is permitted without written approval of TLMD.
- BB. Lease contains a well certified for domestic use by the Board of Oil and Gas Commission (BOGC). Therefore, BOGC does not consider this well to be subject to well spacing regulations.
- CC. This lease is issued subject to a prior existing State of Montana bentonite lease. Lessee's right to search, develop, and produce oil and gas may be restricted by such prior existing lease rights.
- DD. A gas storage unit exists on this tract. TLMD will solicit comments from gas storage operator (if other than lessee) if drilling through the gas storage reservoir is proposed, and TLMD may include reasonable protective stipulations in approving Lessee's operating plan. As part of its regulatory review, the BOGC may also require protective measures to ensure no impact to the gas storage reservoir.
- EE. No surface occupancy of radio tower sites or related facilities is permitted without written approval of TLMD.

APPENDIX C: Agency Comments Received Before Deadline

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

JUDY H. MARTZ, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
TELEFAX NUMBER (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

September 27, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patrick Rennie, Archaeologist, Ag. & Grazing Management Bureau

FROM: Teresa Kinley, Hydrologist/Geologist, Minerals Management Bureau *Teresa Kinley*

RE: December 4, 2001 State of Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Please review the attached list of tracts for the upcoming oil and gas lease sale for cultural areas of concern. Prior to leasing, the Department complete an environmental assessment of the properties. One of the purposes of this assessment is to mitigate potential cultural concerns that could be affected by oil and gas exploration by adding stipulations to the leases. As usual the standard cultural stipulation will be placed on all tracts.

Let me know if there are any concerns which may require other stipulations on the leases. If you have any questions, please ask me or Monte Mason. Please return your comments by October 24, 2001.

Thank you for your help.

Attachment

Teresa:

Looks good. my recommendation is to attach the standard archaeological stipulation to each lease.

Patrick

The standard archaeological (cultural resources)/paleontological stipulation will be utilized on each tract on the Dec. 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

Kinley, Teresa

From: Wentland, Harold
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2001 11:59 AM
To: Kinley, Teresa
Cc: Satterfield, Jim; Wentland, Harold; Ensign, John; Gunderson, Pat; Mule, Ray; Rosgaard, Al; sullivan, mark
Subject: FW: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001
Importance: High

Dear Teresa:

My comments on behalf of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 6 pertain to those sites in your December 4, 2001 State of Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale located in Blaine (1), Daniels (3), Hill (1), Richland (1) and Sheridan (1) Counties. Note that there was not time for my biologists to visit any of the tracts on-the-ground and comment back to me by your October 24, 2001 deadline.

I recommend no surface occupancy or other activity be allowed on any of the sites during the March 1 through July 1 period each year. This will help protect breeding and nesting upland game birds and waterfowl, and fawning and early rearing big game animals. If the activity is to take place exclusively on cropland that is currently under cultivation (not CRP), the recommendations do not apply.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Wentland
Region 6 Wildlife Program Manager

There are no tract-specific comments noted above. However, based on comments from MT-DWRC Field Staff and the MT Natural Heritage Program information and review of topographic maps of the areas in FWP Region 6 on the Dec. 4, 2001 Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale, stipulations have been recommended for placement on the leases of these tracts.

-----Original Message-----

From: Satterfield, Jim
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 2:20 PM
To: Wentland, Harold
Subject: FW: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001
Importance: High

Harold, please review and let me know if problems. Thanks, JS.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kinley, Teresa
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 2:03 PM
To: Satterfield, Jim
Subject: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001
Importance: High

I am sending the tract list and my request for comments letter as attached files in Word 2000 format. The tract list is a Word file, HYDRODEC.doc and it is in plain text, Courier New font, 10 point size. I have also attached an additional Word 2000 file which includes a general location map for informational purposes. Please let me know if you are unable to open this file format.

As noted in the attached letter, the deadline for comments is October 24, 2001. You do not need to include tracts outside your area in the comments that you return. Comments can be returned by postal mail or electronic mail. Please contact me at (406) 444-2074 if you have questions. Thank you for your assistance.



FWPS.doc



HYDRODEC.doc



DECMAPO1.doc



P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0581 • tel 406.444.3009 • <http://nris.state.mt.us>

October 2, 2001

Teresa Kinley
MT DNRC, Trust Land Management Division
1625 Eleventh Ave.
PO Box 201601
Helena, Montana 59620-1601

Dear Teresa,

I am writing in response to your request for information on species of concern in the vicinity of the proposed Oil & Gas Lease Sale Tracts. We checked our databases for information in these areas. We have enclosed the species of concern reports, organized by township, range and section, for each area and 1 map for each area where these species were found. The results are summarized as follows:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>APP#</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES FOUND</u>
Blaine	+5002	T35N, R20E, Section 36	2
Custer	5003-5004	T08-10N, R45E	0
Daniels	5086-5088	T34N, R46E, Sections 18-20	0
Fallon	5090-5091	T04N, R61E	0
Fallon	5092	T06N, R59E, Section 24	1
Hill	5060	T30N, R14E, Section 5	0
Lewis & Clark	5069	T16N, R05W, Section 16	2
Lewis & Clark	5070-5071	T17N, R06W	4
Lewis & Clark	5072-5077 & 5094-5101	T18N, R07W; and, T19N, R06-08W	12
Lewis & Clark and Teton	5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102	T20N, R05-08W; and, T21N, R06-07W	12
Pondera	5062	T29N, R04W, Section 33	1
Richland	5059	T24N, R56E, Section 16	0

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>APP#</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES FOUND</u>
Rosebud	5006-5007, 5010-5013, 5014-5025	T07N, R41-43E; T08N, 41 & 44E; T09N, R40-41E & 44E; T10N, R41 & 44E; and, T11N, R40-41E	0
Rosebud	5009	T07N, R44E, Section 16	1
Rosebud	5065-5068	T09N, R34-35E	1
Sheridan	5061	T31N, R58E, Section 16	4
Stillwater	5089	T01N, R21E, Section 36	0
Teton	5103-5122	T27N, R07-08W	9
Toole	5001	T30N, R01E, Section 2	0
Toole	5093	T32N, R02E, Section 24	1
Toole	5063-5064	T08N, R35-36 ^E	1

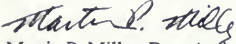
Please keep in mind the following when using and interpreting the enclosed information and maps:

- (1) These materials are the result of a search of our database for species of concern and communities that comprise high-quality wetlands, that occur in an area defined by the requested township and range (and section, if available) with an additional one-mile buffer surrounding the requested area. This is done to provide you with a more inclusive set of records and to capture records that may be immediately adjacent to the requested area.
- (2) In the report, the term "precision" reflects the quality of the location information. S (second) precision is used when the location of the collection/observation is known within a three-second radius (approximately 10 acres); M (minute) precision is used when the location of the collection/observation is known within a one minute radius (approximately 1.5 miles); and G (general) precision is used when the location of the record/collection is known within a 5 mile radius or to a place name only. Some species locations outside the selection area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the selection area.
- (3) Location information for animals represents occupied breeding habitat; location information for plants represents known occurrences of plant species, and, like animals, has an implied range that may not be fully conveyed by the mapped data. Most locations are depicted as points, but some, especially those that cover large area, are depicted as polygons on the map. The approximate boundaries of these polygons are color-coded to help differentiate vertebrate classes and plants.
- (4) This report may include sensitive data, and is not intended for general distribution, publication or for use outside of your agency. In particular, public release of specific location information may jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or communities.
- (5) The accompanying map(s) display management status, which may differ from ownership. Also, this report may include data from privately owned lands, and approval by the landowner is advisable if specific location information is considered for distribution. Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- (6) Additional biological data for the search area(s) may be available from other sources. We suggest you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on threatened and endangered species (406-449-5225). Also, significant gaps exist in the Heritage Program's fisheries data, and we suggest you contact the Montana Rivers Information System for information related to your area of interest (406-444-3345).

- (7) The results of a data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program reflect the current status of our data collection efforts. These results are not intended as a final statement on sensitive species within a given area, or as a substitute for on-site surveys, which may be required for environmental assessments.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at (406)-444-2817 or via my e-mail address, below, should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Martin P. Miller, Data Assistant
Montana Natural Heritage Program
(martinm@state.mt.us)

Montana Natural Heritage Program

P.O. Box 201800
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-1800
(406) 444-3009
<http://nris.state.mt.us>

Explanation of Element Occurrence Reports

Since 1985, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) has been compiling and maintaining an inventory of the elements of biological diversity in Montana. This inventory includes plant species, animal species, plant communities, and other biological features that are rare, endemic, disjunct, threatened or endangered throughout their range in Montana, vulnerable to extirpation from Montana, or in need of further research.

Individual species, communities, or biological features are referred to as "elements." An "element occurrence" generally falls in one of the following categories:

Plants: A documented location of a plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and are within approximately one air mile of one another).

Animals with limited mobility (most invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, most fish): The location of a specimen collection or of a verified sighting; assumed to represent a breeding population. Additional collections or sightings are often appended to the original record.

Mobile or migratory animals (most birds and larger mammals, some fish): Breeding areas (including nesting territories, dens and leks) and significant aggregation sites (winter feeding areas, staging grounds, or hibernacula).

Communities: All contiguous, high-quality habitat as defined by physical and biological features.

Other: Significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as bird rookeries, peatlands, or state champion trees.



The quantity and quality of data contained in MTNHP reports is dependent on the research and observations of the many individuals and organizations who contribute information to the program.

Please keep in mind that the absence of information for an area does not mean the absence of significant biological features. Reports produced by the Montana Natural Heritage Program summarize information known to the program at the time of a request. These reports are not intended as a final statement on the elements or areas being considered, nor are they a substitute for on-site surveys which may be required for environmental assessments.

As a user of MTNHP, your contributions of data are essential to maintaining the accuracy of our data bases. New or updated location information for all species of special concern is always welcome.

We encourage you to visit our website at <http://nris.state.mt.us/mtnhp/>. On-line tools include species lists, an electronic version of *Montana Bird Distribution*, and search capabilities by county, management unit, or USGS 7.5' quadrangle. Also available is the *Montana Rare Plant Field Guide*, which contains photos, high-quality diagnostic illustrations, and supporting information for over 300 rare plant species in Montana.

Certain codes and abbreviations are used in element occurrence reports. Although many of these are very straightforward, the following explanations should answer most questions.

Global Rank and State Rank

Taxa are evaluated and ranked by MTNHP on the basis of their global (range-wide) status, and their state-wide status according to a standardized procedure.

For each level of distribution, global and state, species are assigned a numeric rank ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure). For example, Clustered lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) is ranked G4 S2. That is, globally the species is apparently secure, while in Montana it is imperiled because of rarity, or because of other factors making it demonstrably vulnerable to extirpation.

Rank Definition

- 1 Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity, or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extirpation.
 - 2 Imperiled because of rarity, or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
 - 3 Vulnerable because of rarity, or found in a restricted range even though it may be abundant at some of its locations.
 - 4 Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
 - 5 Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- U Possibly in peril but status uncertain; more information needed.
- H Historical, known only from records over 50 years ago; may be rediscovered.
- X Believed to be extinct; historical records only.

Other Global and State Rank codes:

- T Rank for a subspecies or variety; appended to the global rank for the full species, e.g., G4T3.
- Q Taxonomic questions or problems involved; more information needed.
- ? Inexact or uncertain.
- Z Ranking not applicable.
- A Accidental in the state. Includes species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded very infrequently, hundreds or thousands of miles outside their usual range.
- B A state rank modifier indicating breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B, SZN = breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state; non-breeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.
- # A modifier to SX or SH: the species has been reintroduced but the population is not yet established.

U. S. Fish And Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act Status

Abbreviations indicate the categories defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice of Review and indicate the status of a taxon under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.A. §1531-1543 (Supp. 1996)).

Note: the categories C2, 3B and 3C are no longer maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (61 FR 7596, Feb. 28, 1996).

Current categories are:

- LE listed endangered
- LT listed threatened
- PE proposed endangered
- PT proposed threatened
- C candidate: Substantial information exists in U.S. Fish and Wildlife files on biological vulnerability to support

proposals to list as threatened or endangered.

- NL not listed or no designation (see below)
 XN non-essential experimental population

A species can have more than one federal designation if the species' status varies within its range. In these instances, the Montana designation is listed first. Example: LE^{LT} - species is listed as endangered in Montana; elsewhere in its range it is listed as threatened.

U.S. Forest Service Status

The status of species on Forest Service lands as defined by the U.S. Forest Service manual (2670.22). These taxa are listed as such by the Regional Forester (Northern Region) on National Forests in Montana. Species are listed as:

- T/E/P listed as Threatened (LT) or Endangered (LE) under the Endangered Species Act or proposed for listing (P), and known or suspected to occur on national forests.
- S sensitive species, subspecies or variety, for which the Regional Forester has determined there is a concern for population viability rangewide or in the region.

Bureau of Land Management Status

The status of species on Bureau of Land Management land is defined by the BLM 6840 manual and designated by the Montana State Office of the BLM in 1996:

- S sensitive species: proven to be imperiled in at least part of its range and documented to occur on BLM lands.
- W watch species: either known to be imperiled and suspected to occur on BLM lands, suspected to be imperiled and documented on BLM lands, or needing further study for other reasons.

Other terms that may be used in this report

USGS quadrangle - Name of the 7.5-minute USGS topographic map(s) where the population is located.

Township, range, section, TRS comments - legal description of the centroid of the population and, if known, additional townships or sections. TRS locators may be based on unsurveyed townships; in such cases, the locators are derived from U. S. Forest Service visitor maps or from BLM surface management status maps. This is done for convenience in describing species locations; the information does not necessarily indicate legal boundaries.

Precision - the level of location accuracy of the record.

S = accuracy of location is within an area of approximately 10 acres

M = accuracy of location is within a radius of approximately 1.5 miles

G = location is a place-name only, or within a radius of approximately 5 square miles.

Last observation: date the element was last observed extant at the site (not necessarily the date the site was last visited).

Land Owner/manager - the ownership or management of the land on which the element occurs. Areas are generally listed from smallest to largest. In most instances, this information is derived from U.S. Forest Service visitor maps or from BLM surface management status maps.

Please remember that this report is a summary of information. Additional data are available on most sites and species

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us either by phone at (406/444-0914), e-mail (mtnhp@nris.state.mt.us) or at the mailing address shown on the first page.

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Blaine County
APP# 5002

Scientific Name: ATHENE CUNICULARIA

Common Name: BURROWING OWL

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1 ADULT SEEN ENTERING BURROW.

Last observation: 1995-07-01

Size (acres):

General site description:

IN BADGERHOLE IN SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE CA. 15 METERS FROM EPHEMERAL POND. BURROW
ENTRANCE MOUND CONTAINING OWL FEATHERS AND WHITEWASH.

Land owner/manager

BLM: HAVRE FIELD STATION; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

OBSERVED BY JIM REICHEL.

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: COAL CREEK

County: BLAINE

USGS quadrangle: TULE LAKE

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 2820

Location:

CA. 9 MILES NORTHEAST OF CHINOOK.

Township\Range:

034N020E

Section:

10

TRS comments:

*App. # 5002 T35N, R20E Sec 36
is ~1 to 3 miles from this site. Ponds are at a slightly
lower elevation. The stream, pond, wetland, etc. buffer
strip. would cover occurrence or movement of Owls to this area
near the ponds on this tract if other habitat factors are
conducive to their being there.*



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Blaine County

APP# 5002

Scientific Name: VULPES VELOX

Common Name: SWIFT FOX

Global Rank G3

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: C

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE; BUT PROBABLY AT LEAST 4 BREEDING PAIRS ARE PRESENT. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ENCOMPASS ALL REPORTED OBSERVATIONS LOCATED WITHIN 20 KM OF ONE ANOTHER. SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.

Last observation: 1996

Size (acres):

General site description:

ROLLING, GLACIATED MIXED-GRASS PRAIRIE WITH LIMITED SHRUB.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); BLM: LEWISTOWN FIELD OFFICE; FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION

Comments:

41 OBSERVATIONS IN THE 1980S AND 1990S, INCLUDING 5 OF PUPS OR JUVENILES.

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800, HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: BORDER PRAIRIE

County: BLAINE; VALLEY; PHILLIPS; HILL

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

A VERY LARGE AREA MOSTLY NORTH OF THE MILK RIVER FROM CHINOOK TO HINSDALE AND EXTENDING TO CANADA.

Township/Range: Section: TRS comments:

037N018E

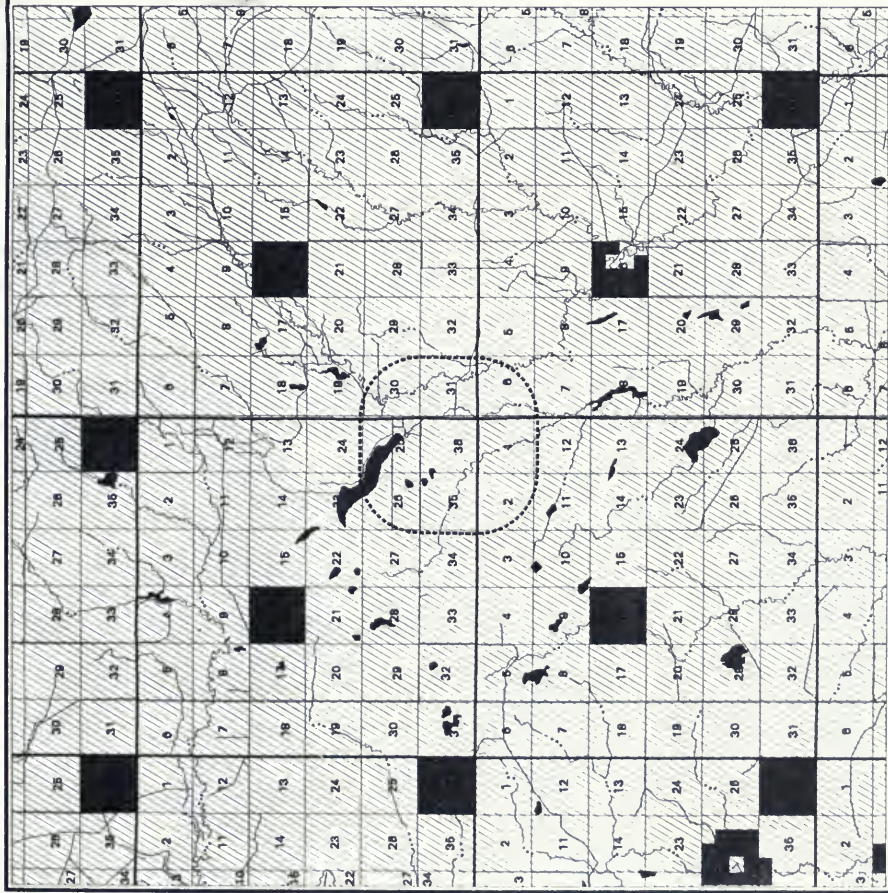
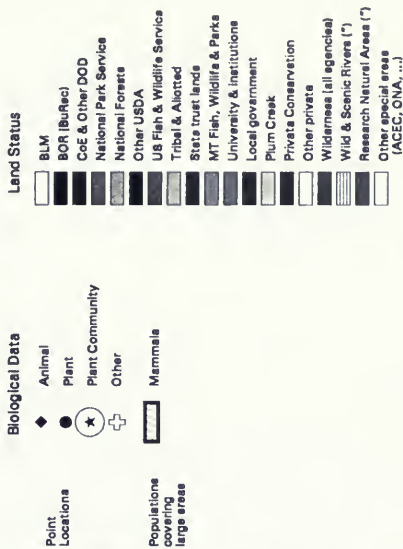
12

CENTROID--OCCURRENCE EXTENDS OVER MANY TOWNSHIPS

Application # 5002 T35N, R20E, Sec. 36 is within the Sw. Ft Fox area. The wildlife survey stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.



Montana Species of Concern Blaine County APP# +5002



- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Request rh06428a
October 01, 2001



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Fallon County
APP# 5092

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS RACEMOSUS VAR RACEMOSUS

Common Name: RACEME MILKVETCH

Global Rank: G5T5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

COMMON.

Last observation: 1987-06-10

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

GRASSLANDS ALONG HIGHWAY, WITH AGROPYRON SMITHII AND GUTIERREZIA SAROTHRAE.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

ORIGINALLY DETERMINED AS A. R. VAR. LONGISETUS - SPECIMEN REVIEW IS NEEDED TO VERIFY VARIETY. OTHER MONTANA SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN ANNOTATED OR DETERMINED TO BE A. R. VAR. RACEMOSUS.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: BAKER

County: FALLON

USGS quadrangle: BAKER

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3150

Location:

ALONG HIGHWAY 7, CA. 8 MILES SOUTH OF BAKER.

Township/Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

006N059E

21

Application # 5092 T6N R59E Sec. 24 is ~ 2-3 miles away from this site. Elevations on this tract are higher, but topography is similar. Aspect is NE & SW on the tract versus west, north, and northwest at the site. A secondary highway cuts part of the tract.

The vegetation survey stipulation will be utilized on this application number (5092).

Montana Species of Concern Fallon County APP# 5092



- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.

- Not all legend items may occur on map.

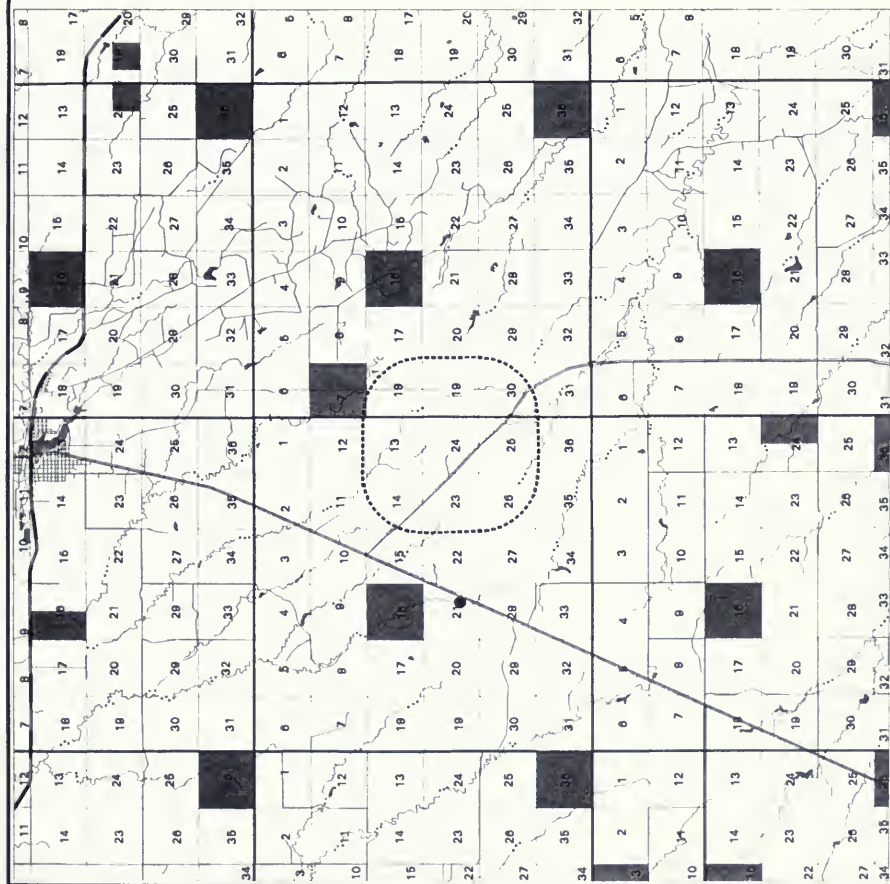
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.

- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Request rhp05428e
October 01, 2001



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5069

Scientific Name: FELIS LYNX

Common Name: LYNX

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

POTENTIAL HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD CONSISTS OF LARGE CONTIGUOUS AREAS THAT WERE GENERALIZED FROM SPECIFIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED BY THE WILDLIFE SPATIAL ANALYSIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AS BEING POTENTIAL LYNX HABITAT.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

DENSE, MATURE OR OLD-GROWTH LODGEPOLE PINE, DOUGLAS-FIR, ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR FORESTS. WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERSTORY IMPORTANT.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

ALL HABITAT POLYGONS IN THE STATE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD. SOURCE DATA INCLUDES CAVEAT THAT SUITABLE HABITAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATED. SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS ABOVE 3500 FEET ELEVATION ARE PREFERRED HABITAT. LYNX NUMBERS CYCLE WITH NUMBERS OF SNOWSHOE HARE AND MAY BE VERY LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IN PREFERRED HABITAT. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE HABITAT MAPPING, THIS OCCURRENCE IS NOT DISPLAYED ON STANDARD MAPS OF ELEMENT OCCURRENCES.

Information source

HART, M. M., W. A. WILLIAMS, P. C. THORNTON, K. P. MCLAUGHLIN, C. M. TOBALSKE, B. A. MAXELL, D. P. HENDRICKS, C. R. PETERSON, AND R. L. REDMOND. 1998. MONTANA ATLAS OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. VII + 1302 PP.

Survey site name: STATEWIDE

County: BEAVERHEAD; CARBON; CASCADE; DEER LODGE; FLATHEAD; GALLATIN; GLACIER; GRANIT

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

INCLUDES MUCH OF WESTERN & SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

*Application Number 5069 T16N, R5W, S4. 16 is
~1/8 to 1/4 mile from the grizzly bear area boundary.
This tract is located east of Hwy 200. Tract has trees.
The sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on
this tract's lease for lynx and grizzly bears.*



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5069

Scientific Name: URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS

Common Name: GRIZZLY BEAR

Global Rank: G4T3

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: SIS2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

OCCUPIED HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE IS APPARENTLY SEPARATED FROM THAT IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND BECOMING ISOLATED FROM POPULATIONS IN CANADA TO THE NORTH. THE POPULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 549-813 BEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF 306 BEARS (INCLUDING THE MISSION MOUNTAINS PORTION), ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. FROM 1987-1992, THE AVERAGE KNOWN HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY WAS 11.3 BEARS/YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FROM THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE AREAS WHERE BEARS ARE REPEATEDLY OBSERVED.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

GRIZZLIES USE A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS, FROM LOW-ELEVATION RIPARIAN AREAS TO ALPINE AND TALUS SLOPES.

Land owner/manager

SCAPEGUAT WILDERNESS; BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS; GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS; GLACIER NATIONAL PARK; FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST; LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST; HELENA NATIONAL FOREST; LOLO NATIONAL FOREST; CORPORATE TIMBERLANDS; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 34; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; MONTANA LAND RELIANCE EASEMENT 4; UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAND - BANDY RANCH; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 18; SWAN RIVER OXBOW PRESERVE

Comments:

"OCCUPIED HABITAT" IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE MTNHP ZOOLOGIST. (THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Information source

SERVHEEN, C. 1993. GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY PLAN. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FWS. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. 181 PP.

Survey site name: NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

County: FLATHEAD; GLACIER; PONDERA; TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK; POWELL; MISSOULA; LAKE; LI

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 3200

Location:

THIS RECORD ENCOMPASSES AN AREA FROM CANADA SOUTH TO STATE HIGHWAY 200, AND FROM EAST FRONT TO SWAN AND STILLWATER RIVERS.

Township/Range: Section: TRS comments:

nhp6428g.eor

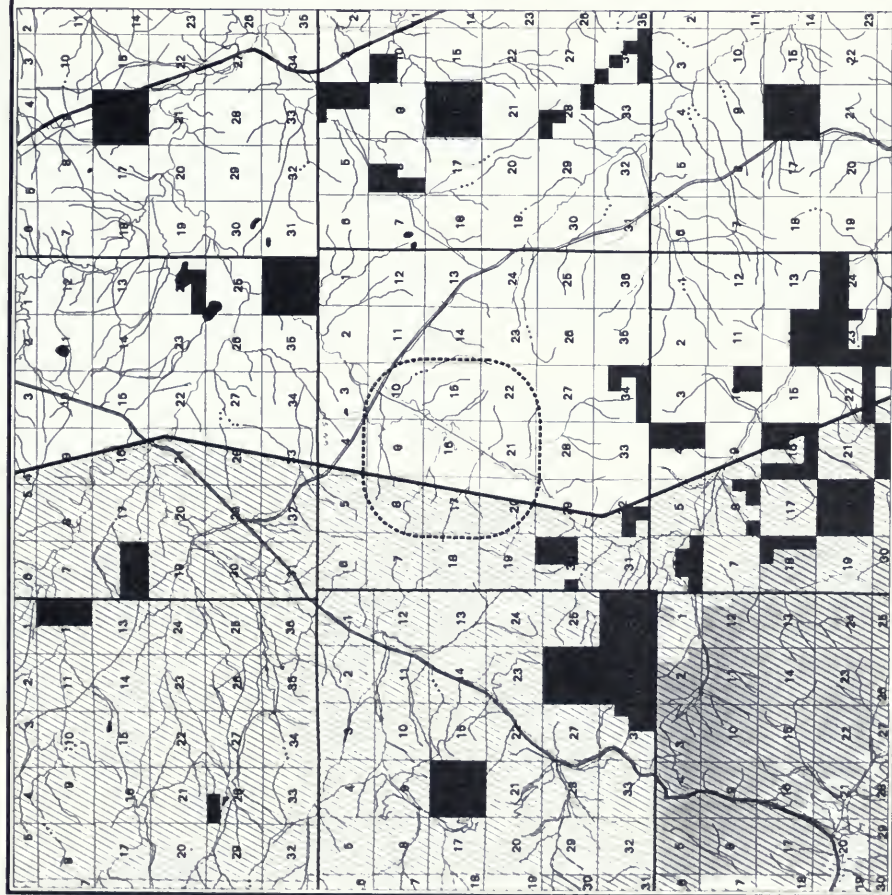
Application # 5069 T16N, R5W Sec. 16 is
~1/8 to 1 1/8 mile from the grizzly bear area
boundary. This tract is located east of Hwy 200.
Tract has trees. The sensitive area stipulation
will be utilized on this tract's lease.
For lynx and grizzly bears.

MTNHP ref. 008



Montana Species of Concern Lewis & Clark County

APP# 5069



Biological Data

- Point Locations
- Animal: ♦
 - Plant: ●
 - Plant Community: (x)
 - Other: +
- Populations covering large areas
- Mammals: [Pattern]

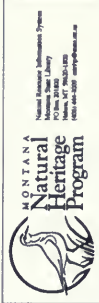
Land Status

- BLM
- BOR (Burel)
- CoE & Other DOD
- National Park Service
- National Forests
- Other USDA
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal & Allotted
- Bate trust lands
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- University & Institutions
- Local government
- Plum Creek
- Private Conservation
- Other private
- Wilderness (all agencies)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers (*)
- Research Natural Areas (*)
- Other special areas (ACEC, ONA, ...)

----- Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have impracticably known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Request rhp6428g
October 01, 2001

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5070-5071

Scientific Name: FELIS LYNX

Common Name: LYNX

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

POTENTIAL HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD CONSISTS OF LARGE CONTIGUOUS AREAS THAT WERE GENERALIZED FROM SPECIFIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED BY THE WILDLIFE SPATIAL ANALYSIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AS BEING POTENTIAL LYNX HABITAT.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

DENSE, MATURE OR OLD-GROWTH LODGEPOLE PINE, DOUGLAS-FIR, ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR FORESTS. WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERSTORY IMPORTANT.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

ALL HABITAT POLYGONS IN THE STATE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD. SOURCE DATA INCLUDES CAVEAT THAT SUITABLE HABITAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATED. SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS ABOVE 3500 FEET ELEVATION ARE PREFERRED HABITAT. LYNX NUMBERS CYCLE WITH NUMBERS OF SNOWSHOE HARE AND MAY BE VERY LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IN PREFERRED HABITAT. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE HABITAT MAPPING, THIS OCCURRENCE IS NOT DISPLAYED ON STANDARD MAPS OF ELEMENT OCCURRENCES.

Information source

HART, M. M., W. A. WILLIAMS, P. C. THORNTON, K. P. MCLAUGHLIN, C. M. TOBALSKE, B. A. MAXELL, D. P. HENDRICKS, C. R. PETERSON, AND R. L. REDMOND. 1998. MONTANA ATLAS OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. VII + 1302 PP.

Survey site name: STATEWIDE

County: BEAVERHEAD; CARBON; CASCADE; DEER LODGE; FLATHEAD; GALLATIN; GLACIER; GRANIT

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

INCLUDES MUCH OF WESTERN & SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments: Application Numbers 5070 T17N, R6W, Sec. 16
5071 T17N, R6W, Sec. 36
have various numbers of trees and as on
the Rocky Mountain Front. The Rocky Mountain
Front sensitive areas stipulation will be
added to these tracts leases.

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5070-5071

Scientific Name: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

Common Name: BALD EAGLE

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: S3B,S3N

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: NEST SITE & TERRITORY

Species occurrence data:

STATUS: CURRENT. THE MONTANA BALD EAGLE WORKING GROUP (BEWG) ANNUALLY SURVEYS AND COLLECTS DATA ON NEST SITES. CONTACT BEWG COORDINATOR DENNIS FLATH OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS (406-994-6354) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OCCURRENCE.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

NEST SITE AND TERRITORY, NEST IN PONDEROSA PINE.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

REPORTED BY BRUCE BRADSHAW, A KAYAKER.

Information source

FLATH, D. 2000. [MEMO LISTING LOCATION OF BALD EAGLE NESTS AS OF AUGUST, 1999.] UNPUBLISHED REPORT. 11PP.

Survey site name: CUNIFF CREEK

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: KRONE RANCH

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 4250

Location:

ON THE DEARBORN RIVER, CA. 6 RIVER MILES DOWNSTREAM FROM STATE HWY 434 "HIGH BRIDGE."

Township\Range:

017N006W

Section:

1

TRS comments:

CENTER

Application Number(s) 5070 T17N, R6W, Sec. 16
5071 T17N, R6W, Sec 36

are ~2 1/2 to 3 1/2 miles and ~4 1/2 to 5 1/2 miles
From this site. The Dearborn River does
not cut these tracts and they are outside (Farther
away)
the buffer distance in the BOGC Programmatic
? FWP recent recommendations.

—No impact—

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5070-5071

Scientific Name: PHLOX KELSEYI VAR MISSOULENSIS

Common Name: MISSOULA PHLOX

Global Rank G2

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1989: PLENTIFUL.

Last observation: 1989-06-01

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

1989: DRY MEADOW. 1976: BARE WINDSWEPT HABITAT WITH KRUMMHOLZ. 1968: DRY SLOPE.
ASSOCIATED SPECIES: SAXIFRAGA RHOMBOIDEA, ERITRICHUM NANUM, BESSEYA WYOMINGENSIS.

Land owner/manager

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

K. LACKSCHEWITZ REPORTED 5700 FT. ELEVATION (1968), T. WATSON REPORTED 6700 FT. ELEVATION (1976); OCCURRENCE MAPPED AT 6200 FT.

Information source

SCHASSBERGER, L. AND P. ACHUFF. 1991. STATUS REVIEW OF PHLOX KELSEYI VAR. MISSOULENSIS, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST. MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, HELENA, MT. 37 PP.

Survey site name: LEWIS & CLARK PASS

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: BLOWOUT MOUNTAIN

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 6200

Location:

LEWIS & CLARK PASS (ON EAST SIDE OF ALICE CREEK BASIN, CA. 0.5 MILE NORTH OF GREEN MOUNTAIN).

Township\Range:

016N007W

Section:

13

TRS comments:

NE4

Application Numbers) 5070 T17N, R6W, Sec. 16
and 5071 T17N, R6W Sec. 36

are at a lower elevation and have less steep topography with fewer trees. These are the closest tracts to the site and they are located ~5-7 miles away.

Distance is dissimilar habitat
-No impact.



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5070-5071

Scientific Name: URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS

Common Name: GRIZZLY BEAR

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: SIS2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

OCCUPIED HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE IS APPARENTLY SEPARATED FROM THAT IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND BECOMING ISOLATED FROM POPULATIONS IN CANADA TO THE NORTH. THE POPULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 549-813 BEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF 306 BEARS (INCLUDING THE MISSION MOUNTAINS PORTION), ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. FROM 1987-1992, THE AVERAGE KNOWN HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY WAS 11.3 BEARS/YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FROM THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE AREAS WHERE BEARS ARE REPEATEDLY OBSERVED.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

GRIZZLIES USE A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS, FROM LOW-ELEVATION RIPARIAN AREAS TO ALPINE AND TALUS SLOPES.

Land owner/manager

SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS; BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS; GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS; GLACIER NATIONAL PARK; FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST; LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST; HELENA NATIONAL FOREST; LOLO NATIONAL FOREST; CORPORATE TIMBERLANDS; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 34; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; MONTANA LAND RELIANCE EASEMENT 4; UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAND - BANDY RANCH; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 18; SWAN RIVER OXBOW PRESERVE

Comments:

"OCCUPIED HABITAT" IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE MTNHP ZOOLOGIST. (THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Information source

SERVHEEN, C. 1993. GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY PLAN. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FWS. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. 181 PP.

Survey site name: NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

County: FLATHEAD; GLACIER; PONDERA; TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK; POWELL; MISSOULA; LAKE; LI

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 3200

Location:

THIS RECORD ENCOMPASSES AN AREA FROM CANADA SOUTH TO STATE HIGHWAY 200, AND FROM EAST FRONT TO SWAN AND STILLWATER RIVERS.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

*The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive area stipulation will be utilized on application numbers 5070 T17N, R6W, Sec 16
5071 T17N, R6W, Sec 36
which are within the grizzly bear area.*



Montana Species of Concern Lewis & Clark County APP# 5070-5071



Biological Data

- Point Locations**
- Animal (black dot)
 - Plant (star in circle)
 - Plant Community (star in circle with cross)
 - Other (plus sign)
- Populations covering large areas**
- Mammals (hatched box)

Land Status

- BLM (white box)
- BOR (BuRec) (black box)
- CoE & Other DOD (dark gray box)
- National Park Service (medium gray box)
- National Forests (light gray box)
- Other USDA (dark gray box)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (hatched box)
- Tribal & Allotted (white box)
- State trust lands (dark gray box)
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks (medium gray box)
- University & Institutions (light gray box)
- Local government (white box)
- Plum Creek (hatched box)
- Private Conservation (dark gray box)
- Other private (white box)
- Wilderness (all agencies) (hatched box)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers ("") (hatched box)
- Research Natural Areas ("") (hatched box)
- Other special areas (ACEC, ONA, ...) (white box)

..... Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 2 4 6 8 10



Request: mnhp6428h
October 01, 2001



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI

Common Name: WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Global Rank: G4T3

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: AGGREGATED OCCURRENCE - OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF STREAMS: - WITH PURE POPULATIONS = 1; - WITH POTENTIALLY PURE POPULATIONS = 0; - WITH 90-99% PURE POPULATIONS = 5. IDENTIFIED 'POPULATION AGGREGATES': NONE.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

POPULATIONS TESTED PURE IN: LIME GUCH.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POPULATIONS, CONTACT MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS OR QUERY THE MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM @ <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/mris1.html>.

Information source

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 1999. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT FOR WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT (ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI) IN MONTANA. 28PP.

Survey site name: TETON RIVER BASIN

County: LEWIS AND CLARK; TETON

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

THIS OCCURRENCE INCLUDES ALL STREAM SEGMENTS WITHIN THE SUN RIVER WATERSHED THAT SUPPORT POPULATIONS THAT ARE 90% OR MORE PURE.

Township/Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

For the Dec. 4, 2001 MT Oil & Gas Lease Sale Application Numbers 5072 to 5077 and 5094 to 5101 are on the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on the leases of these tracts.

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: FELIS LYNX

Common Name: LYNX

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

POTENTIAL HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD CONSISTS OF LARGE CONTIGUOUS AREAS THAT WERE GENERALIZED FROM SPECIFIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED BY THE WILDLIFE SPATIAL ANALYSIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AS BEING POTENTIAL LYNX HABITAT.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

DENSE, MATURE OR OLD-GROWTH LODGEPOLE PINE, DOUGLAS-FIR, ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR FORESTS. WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERSTORY IMPORTANT.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

ALL HABITAT POLYGONS IN THE STATE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD. SOURCE DATA INCLUDES CAVEAT THAT SUITABLE HABITAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATED. SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS ABOVE 3500 FEET ELEVATION ARE PREFERRED HABITAT. LYNX NUMBERS CYCLE WITH NUMBERS OF SNOWSHOE HARE AND MAY BE VERY LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IN PREFERRED HABITAT. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE HABITAT MAPPING, THIS OCCURRENCE IS NOT DISPLAYED ON STANDARD MAPS OF ELEMENT OCCURRENCES.

Information source

HART, M. M., W. A. WILLIAMS, P. C. THORNTON, K. P. MCLAUGHLIN, C. M. TOBALSKE, B. A. MAXELL, D. P. HENDRICKS, C. R. PETERSON, AND R. L. REDMOND. 1998. MONTANA ATLAS OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. VII + 1302 PP.

Survey site name: STATEWIDE

County: BEAVERHEAD; CARBON; CASCADE; DEER LODGE; FLATHEAD; GALLATIN; GLACIER; GRANITE; JEFFERSON; JUDITH BASIN; LAKE; LEWIS AND CLARK; LINCOLN; MADISON; MEAGHER; MINERAL; MISSOULA; PARK; PONDERA; POWELL; RAVALLI; SANDERS; SILVER BOW; STILLWATER; SWEET GRASS; TETO

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

INCLUDES MUCH OF WESTERN & SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

- See page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: AMMODRAMUS BAIRDII

Common Name: BAIRD'S SPARROW

Global Rank: G4

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3S4B,S

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1 MALE SPARROW; SINGING WHILE COLLECTED. 12.0 G; RIGHT TESTES 7 MM X 3, LEFT 9 MM X 4; SKULL OSSIFIED.

Last observation: 1989-06-15

Size (acres):

General site description:

ROADSIDE. SHORTGRASS HABITAT.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

REPORTED BY DENVER HOLT. COLLECTED BY PHIL WRIGHT.

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800, HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: BEAN LAKE ROAD

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: BEAN LAKE

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4625

Location:

FROM AUGUSTA, FOLLOW COUNTY ROAD 434 (BEAN LAKE ROAD) CA. 15 MILES GENERALLY SOUTH UNTIL REACHING A 4-WAY INTERSECTION JUST EAST OF BEAN LAKE CAMPGROUND. SITE IS EAST OF ROAD ON NORTH SIDE OF INTERSECTION.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

018N006W

19

NE4NE4NW4NE4

- see page 1 -



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: CYPRIPEDIUM PARVIFLORUM

Common Name: SMALL YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

CA. 15 PLANTS FLOWERING.

Last observation: 1991-07

Size (acres): 1

General site description:

SEEP IN SPRUCE WOODS, WITH SALIX SPP., CORNUS STOLONIFERA, BETULA OCCIDENTALIS, POPULUS TREMULOIDES, SWERTIA PERENNIS, ANGELICA ARGUTA, HABENARIA DILATATA, ORCHIS ROTUNDIFOLIA.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

SURVEYED BY D. FIELD. PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN FALL, 1990. THREATENED BY ROAD AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATIONAL USE (EVIDENCE OF PICKING FLOWERS).

Information source

FIELD, DANA. [FORMER BOTANIST]. LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, KINGS HILL RANGER DISTRICT, 204 W. FOLSOM, BOX A, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645. 406/547-3361.

Survey site name: FALLS CREEK

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: BEAN LAKE

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4910

Location:

FROM STATE HWY 434 TURN UP DEARBORN RIVER/BEAN LAKE ROAD TO DIAMOND BAR X RANCH AND HIKE UP TRAIL ON EAST SIDE OF FALLS CREEK CA. 0.5 MILE.

Township\Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
018N007W	34	SW4

- See page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: AMERORCHIS ROTUNDIFOLIA

Common Name: ROUND-LEAVED ORCHIS

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1991: POPULATION WAS DAMAGED BY ROAD CONSTRUCTION TO A DWELLING DEVELOPMENT. 1988: CA. 100-300 INDIVIDUALS; MANY WERE PICKED NEAR THE TRAIL. THIS SITE IS OUTSIDE THE CANYON CREEK FIRE PERIMETER.

Last observation: 1991

Size (acres): 1

General site description:

SPRING SEEP ABOVE CREEK BOTTOM; WITH PICEA ENGELMANNII, SALIX SPP., CORNUS STOLONIFERA, POPULUS TREMULOIDES, PARNASSIA FIMBRIATA, ANGELICA ARGUTA. CYPRIPEDIUM CALCEOLUS OBSERVED IN 1991.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

SIGHT RECORD. AREA REVISITED IN 1991 BY DANA FIELD AND PAT FINNEGAN, AND DAMAGED BY ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Information source

SHELLY, J. S. 1988. STATUS REVIEW OF ORCHIS [AMERORCHIS] ROTUNDIFOLIA, FLATHEAD AND LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FORESTS, MONTANA. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, HELENA, MT. 59 PP.

Survey site name: FALLS CREEK (NORTH)

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: BEAN LAKE

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4910

Location:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT RANGE, FALLS CREEK DRAINAGE, ALONG TRAIL ON EAST SIDE OF CREEK CA. 0.3 MILES NORTH OF FOREST BOUNDARY, CA. 0.5 MILES SOUTH OF DIAMOND BAR X RANCH.

Township\Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
018N007W	34	NE4SW4

- see page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: AMERORCHIS ROTUNDIFOLIA

Common Name: ROUND-LEAVED ORCHIS

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

CA. 100+ PLANTS; SITE MAY HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY CANYON CREEK FIRE IN SEPTEMBER, 1988.

Last observation: 1988-06-27

Size (acres): 1

General site description:

SEEPAGE AREA, AROUND MARGINS OF OLD BEAVER PONDS IN VALLEY BOTTOM; WITH PICEA ENGELMANNII, PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII, CORNUS STOLONIFERA, SYMPHORICARPOS ALBUS, EQUISETUM.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

SIGHT RECORD.

Information source

SHELLY, J. S. 1988. STATUS REVIEW OF ORCHIS [AMERORCHIS] ROTUNDIFOLIA, FLATHEAD AND LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FORESTS, MONTANA. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, HELENA, MT. 59 PP.

Survey site name: JOSLIN BASIN

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: BEAN LAKE

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 5300

Location:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT RANGE, JOSLIN BASIN, CA. 1.5 AIR MILES ESE OF DIAMOND BAR X RANCH.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

018N007W

35

SW4SE4

see page 1



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: ACCIPITER GENTILIS

Common Name: NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3S4

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

NEST SITE AND TERRITORY. 19 SEPTEMBER 1991: ADULTS PRESENT IN STAND AREA. 10 JULY 1990:
ADULT CALLS HEARD.

Last observation: 1991-09-19

Size (acres):

General site description:

COULD NOT LOCATE NEST.

Land owner/manager

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

UTM: 379800 (N) 5240400 (W). CENTRUM=APPROXIMATE NEST SITE.

Information source

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST. [NO DATE]. [PRINTOUT FROM ORACLE
DATABASE ON GOSHAWK NEST SITES LOCATED ON THE LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST.] 11PP.

Survey site name: BAILEY CREEK

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: STEAMBOAT MOUNTAIN

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 5600

Location:

CA. 12.5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF AUGUSTA BETWEEN BAILEY CREEK AND CYANIDE CREEK, ACCESSIBLE
VIA COUNTY RTE 434 AND FS ROAD UP ELK CREEK.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

018N008W

14

- see page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: BUTEO REGALIS

Common Name: FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

BREEDING POPULATION OF CA. 5 PAIRS. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ENCOMPASS ALL REPORTED NEST OBSERVATIONS IN THE AREA. (SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Last observation: 1997-05

Size (acres):

General site description:

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

FULL EXTENT OF OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT IS UNKNOWN.

Information source

DUBOIS, KRISTI. REGION 4, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 4600 GIANT SPRINGS ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT 59406. 406-454-5840.

Survey site name: CROWN BUTTE AREA

County: CASCADE; LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

LARGE AREA SOUTH OF SUN RIVER AND BETWEEN US 287 AND I-15.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

019N002W

7

CENTROID--OCCURRENCE EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS TOWNSHIPS

- see page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: ACCIPITER GENTILIS

Common Name: NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3S4

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

NEST SITE AND TERRITORY. VERY AGGRESSIVE FEMALE, NEST OBSERVED.

Last observation: 1994-06-15

Size (acres):

General site description:

MATURE/OLD GROWTH DOUGLAS FIR.

Land owner/manager

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

UTM: 372.1 (E) 5253.8 (N). CENTRUM=APPROXIMATE NEST SITE.

Information source

PILLIOD, D. 1994. NORTHERN GOSHAWK INVENTORY ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. CHOTEAU, MT. 4 PP.

Survey site name: FORD CREEK

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: DOUBLE FALLS

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 5700

Location:

TAKE FS RD 235 CA. 14 MILES WEST FROM AUGUSTA TO FORD-WILLOW CREEK TRAIL, THEN CA. 1 MILE NORTH ON TRAIL.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

019N009W

1

NW4

- See page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: DOWNINGIA LAETA

Common Name: GREAT BASIN DOWNINGIA

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

SPECIMEN COLLECTED.

Last observation: 1887

Size (acres):

General site description:

UNKNOWN.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source

RYDBERG, P. A. 1900. CATALOGUE OF THE FLORA OF MONTANA AND THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. MEMOIRS, NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN 1:1-492.

Survey site name: AUGUSTA

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: AUGUSTA

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 4000

Location:

AUGUSTA

Township\Range:

020N006W

Section:

17

TRS comments:

- See page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: CYGNUS BUCCINATOR

Common Name: TRUMPETER SWAN

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2B,S2N

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

A SUBPOPULATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN POPULATION; PROBABLY 1-3 PAIRS BREEDING IN THIS AREA, POSSIBLY AT LAKES NOT CURRENTLY MAPPED. MAPPED LAKES INCLUDE ALL THOSE WHERE BREEDING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.

Last observation: 1994

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

POTHOLE LAKES, GENERALLY WITH SUFFICIENT WATER TO MAINTAIN EMERGENT VEGETATION THROUGH THE SUMMER.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); SUN RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Comments:

THOUGH ADDITIONAL PAIRS MAY BE PRESENT ON PRIVATE, SECLUDED LAKES IN THIS AREA, THIS SUBPOPULATION IS CLEARLY MARGINAL IN TERMS OF RECRUITMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN POPULATION, WHICH TOTALS SEVERAL THOUSAND ADULTS.

Information source

SCHWITTERS, MICHAEL T. CHOTEAU, MT. (406)466-2236. EMAIL: SCHWIT@3RIVERS.NET.

Survey site name: SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: NILAN RESERVOIR; BEAN LAKE; DOUBLE FALLS; BARR CREEK

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 4500

Location:

VARIOUS POTHOLE LAKES GENERALLY WEST TO SOUTHWEST OF AUGUSTA.

Township\Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
020N008W		
018N006W	19	
018N007W	02	
021N008W	03	

See page 1

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark County
APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101

Scientific Name: URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS

Common Name: GRIZZLY BEAR

Global Rank: G4T3

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: SIS2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

OCCUPIED HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE IS APPARENTLY SEPARATED FROM THAT IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND BECOMING ISOLATED FROM POPULATIONS IN CANADA TO THE NORTH. THE POPULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 549-813 BEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF 306 BEARS (INCLUDING THE MISSION MOUNTAINS PORTION), ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. FROM 1987-1992, THE AVERAGE KNOWN HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY WAS 11.3 BEARS/YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FROM THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE AREAS WHERE BEARS ARE REPEATEDLY OBSERVED.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

GRIZZLIES USE A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS, FROM LOW-ELEVATION RIPARIAN AREAS TO ALPINE AND TALUS SLOPES.

Land owner/manager

SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS; BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS; GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS; GLACIER NATIONAL PARK; FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST; LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST; HELENA NATIONAL FOREST; LOLO NATIONAL FOREST; CORPORATE TIMBERLANDS; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 34; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; MONTANA LAND RELIANCE EASEMENT 4; UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAND - BANDY RANCH; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 18; SWAN RIVER OXBOW PRESERVE

Comments:

"OCCUPIED HABITAT" IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE MTNHP ZOOLOGIST. (THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Information source

SERVHEEN, C. 1993. GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY PLAN. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FWS. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. 181 PP.

Survey site name: NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

County: FLATHEAD; GLACIER; PONDERA; TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK; POWELL; MISSOULA; LAKE; LINCOLN

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 3200

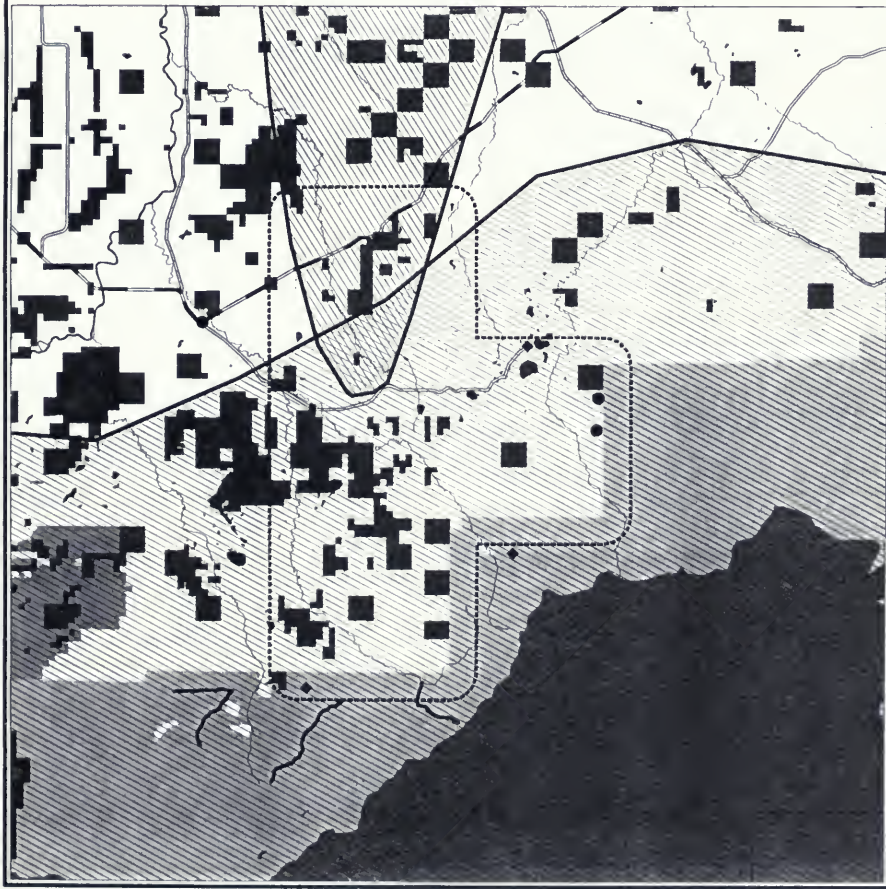
Location:

THIS RECORD ENCOMPASSES AN AREA FROM CANADA SOUTH TO STATE HIGHWAY 200, AND FROM EAST FRONT TO SWAN AND STILLWATER RIVERS.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

- See page 1 -

Montana Species of Concern Lewis & Clark County APP# 5072-5077 & 5094-5101



Biological Data

- Point Locations
- Animal
 - Plant
 - Other
- Populations covering large areas
- Birds
 - Mammals
 - Bull & Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Land Status

- BLM
- BOR (BuRed)
- CoE & Other DOD
- National Park Service
- National Forests
- Other USDA
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal & Allotted
- State trust lands
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- University & Institutions
- Local government
- Plum Creek
- Private Conservation
- Other private
- Wilderness (all agencies)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers (*)
- Research Natural Areas (*)
- Other special areas (ACEC, DNA, ...)

..... Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 5 10 15



Montana Natural Heritage Program
Natural Resources Information System
Montana State Library
Helena, MT 59601-0001
(406) 444-5555 mnhp@msl.state.mt.us

Request nhp6428:
October 01, 2001



01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI

Common Name: WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: AGGREGATED OCCURRENCE - OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF STREAMS: - WITH PURE POPULATIONS = 1; - WITH POTENTIALLY PURE POPULATIONS = 0; - WITH 90-99% PURE POPULATIONS = 5. IDENTIFIED POPULATION AGGREGATES: NONE.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

POPULATIONS TESTED PURE IN: LIME GUCH.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POPULATIONS, CONTACT MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS OR QUERY THE MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM @ <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/mris1.html>.

Information source

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 1999. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT FOR WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT (ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI) IN MONTANA. 28PP.

Survey site name: TETON RIVER BASIN

County: LEWIS AND CLARK; TETON

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

THIS OCCURRENCE INCLUDES ALL STREAM SEGMENTS WITHIN THE SUN RIVER WATERSHED THAT SUPPORT POPULATIONS THAT ARE 90% OR MORE PURE.

Township/Range: Section: TRS comments:

Application numbers 5042, 5045 and 5046 in Teton County are located outside of the MT-NHP grizzly bear and Ferruginous hawk areas. Hwy 287 and another road are present on portions of these tracts. Normal stip. will be utilized on these tracts' leases, including the 100-Ft stream, pond, reservoir, etc buffer stipulation.

App. #'s 5051-5055 are located in Teton Co. outside the grizzly bear area but within and/or on the edge of the ferruginous hawk area. They are also located west of Hwy 287. Therefore the Rocky Mtn. Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on the leases of these tracts. It will also be applied to App. # 5056 located in the grizzly and Ferr. hawk area west of Hwy 287 near the Sun River Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area. Moreover it will be utilized on app. #'s 5057 and 5058 located west of Hwy 287, outside grizzly and Ferr. hawk areas. The navigable river NSO stip will also be utilized on app. #'s 5057 and 5058.

#Name?

MTNHP ref. AFCHA02088*013*MT

Page 1 of 13

Application Numbers 5026 and 5027 in Lewis and Clark County (Sun Riverbed and related acreage)

have navigable riverbed and related acreage. Therefore the navigable river and related acreage - No-surface occupancy stipulation will be utilized on these tracts' leases. They are located east of Hwy 287, outside of the MT-NHP Ferruginous hawk and grizzly bear area.

Application numbers 5078 to 5085 and 5102 in Lewis and Clark County will have the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation utilized on their leases.

Application numbers 5035-5037, and 5040-5041, and 5043 in Teton

County are outside of the grizzly bear and the Ferruginous hawk areas, but they are located west of Hwy 287. They will have the Rocky Mountain Front

Sensitive areas stipulation utilized on their leases. App. # 5036 & 5037 contain some areas of Fluvial Concern based on the MT-Natural Heritage Information

App. #'s 5028, 5029, 5031 to 5034 and 5047 are located east of Hwy 287 and have the Hwy cutting the tract

They are located outside the grizzly bear area and the Ferruginous hawk area. Normal stipulation will be utilized on these tracts, including the stream, etc buffer stip on 5028-5029, and

5032-5034 and the navigable river NSO stipulation and the 48th mile river buffer on App # 5047.

App. #'s 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, and 5048-5050 in Lewis and Clark County are outside the Ferruginous

hawk areas and are outside the grizzly bear area. However they are within 1/2 to 2 miles of the MT-NHP

grizzly area. They are all located west of Hwy 287. App. #'s 5044 and 5050 are near the Willow Creek

Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area. The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas

stipulation will be utilized on these tracts.

App. #'s 5044 and 5050 are near the Willow Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on these tracts.

App. #'s 5044 and 5050 are near the Willow Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on these tracts.

App. #'s 5044 and 5050 are near the Willow Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on these tracts.

App. #'s 5044 and 5050 are near the Willow Creek Reservoir State Wildlife Management Area.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on these tracts.

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: FELIS LYNX

Common Name: LYNX

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

POTENTIAL HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD CONSISTS OF LARGE CONTIGUOUS AREAS THAT WERE GENERALIZED FROM SPECIFIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED BY THE WILDLIFE SPATIAL ANALYSIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AS BEING POTENTIAL LYNX HABITAT.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

DENSE, MATURE OR OLD-GROWTH LODGEPOLE PINE, DOUGLAS-FIR, ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR FORESTS. WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERSTORY IMPORTANT.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

ALL HABITAT POLYGONS IN THE STATE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD. SOURCE DATA INCLUDES CAVEAT THAT SUITABLE HABITAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATED. SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS ABOVE 3500 FEET ELEVATION ARE PREFERRED HABITAT. LYNX NUMBERS CYCLE WITH NUMBERS OF SNOWSHOE HARE AND MAY BE VERY LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IN PREFERRED HABITAT. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE HABITAT MAPPING, THIS OCCURRENCE IS NOT DISPLAYED ON STANDARD MAPS OF ELEMENT OCCURRENCES.

Information source

HART, M. M., W. A. WILLIAMS, P. C. THORNTON, K. P. MCLAUGHLIN, C. M. TOBALSKE, B. A. MAXELL, D. P. HENDRICKS, C. R. PETERSON, AND R. L. REDMOND. 1998. MONTANA ATLAS OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. VII + 1302 PP.

Survey site name: STATEWIDE

County: BEAVERHEAD; CARBON; CASCADE; DEER LODGE; FLATHEAD; GALLATIN; GLACIER; GRANITE; JEFFERSON; JUDITH BASIN; LAKE; LEWIS AND CLARK; LINCOLN; MADISON; MEAGHER; MINERAL; MISSOULA; PARK; PONDERA; POWELL; RAVALLI; SANDERS; SILVER BOW; STILLWATER; SWEET GRASS; TETO

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

INCLUDES MUCH OF WESTERN & SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

- See Page 1 -

#Name?

MTNHP ref. AMAJH03010*001*MT

Page 2 of 13

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: BUTEO REGALIS

Common Name: FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

BREEDING POPULATION OF CA. 5 PAIRS. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ENCOMPASS ALL REPORTED NEST OBSERVATIONS IN THE AREA. (SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Last observation: 1997-05

Size (acres):

General site description:

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

FULL EXTENT OF OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT IS UNKNOWN.

Information source

DUBOIS, KRISTI. REGION 4, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 4600 GIANT SPRINGS ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT 59406. 406-454-5840.

Survey site name: CROWN BUTTE AREA

County: CASCADE; LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

LARGE AREA SOUTH OF SUN RIVER AND BETWEEN US 287 AND I-15.

Township/Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

019N002W

7

CENTROID—OCCURRENCE EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS TOWNSHIPS

- See Page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: ACCIPITER GENTILIS

Common Name: NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3S4

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

NEST SITE AND TERRITORY. VERY AGGRESSIVE FEMALE, NEST OBSERVED.

Last observation: 1994-06-15

Size (acres):

General site description:

MATURE/OLD GROWTH DOUGLAS FIR.

Land owner/manager

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Comments:

UTM: 372.1 (E) 5253.8 (N). CENTRUM=APPROXIMATE NEST SITE.

Information source

PILLIOD, D. 1994. NORTHERN GOSHAWK INVENTORY ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. CHOTEAU, MT. 4 PP.

Survey site name: FORD CREEK

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: DOUBLE FALLS

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 5700

Location:

TAKE FS RD 235 CA. 14 MILES WEST FROM AUGUSTA TO FORD-WILLOW CREEK TRAIL, THEN CA. 1 MILE NORTH ON TRAIL.

Township\Range:

019N009W

Section:

1

TRS comments:

NW4

- See Page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

Common Name: BALD EAGLE

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: S3B,S3N

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: NEST SITE & TERRITORY

Species occurrence data:

STATUS: CURRENT. THE MONTANA BALD EAGLE WORKING GROUP (BEWG) ANNUALLY SURVEYS AND COLLECTS DATA ON NEST SITES. CONTACT BEWG COORDINATOR DENNIS FLATH OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS (406-994-6354) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OCCURRENCE.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

NONE

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source

FLATH, D. 2000. [MEMO LISTING LOCATION OF BALD EAGLE NESTS AS OF AUGUST, 1999.] UNPUBLISHED REPORT. 11PP.

Survey site name: TRI-COUNTY

County: TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: LOWRY

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3720

Location:

SUN RIVER CA. 10 AIR MILES WEST OF SIMMS.

Township\Range:

020N004W

Section:

4

TRS comments:

*Application Numbers 5026 T20N R5W Sec 6 Sun Riverbed
and 5027 T20N R5W Sec 7 Section 7 Sun Riverbed and
are ~ 7-8 miles from this site. The navigable river NSO
stipulation will be utilized on the leases of these tracts.
- No impact -*

See Page 1 also

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: DOWNINGIA LAETA

Common Name: GREAT BASIN DOWNINGIA

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

SPECIMEN COLLECTED.

Last observation: 1887

Size (acres):

General site description:

UNKNOWN.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source

RYDBERG, P. A. 1900. CATALOGUE OF THE FLORA OF MONTANA AND THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. MEMOIRS, NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN 1:1-492.

Survey site name: AUGUSTA

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: AUGUSTA

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 4000

Location:

AUGUSTA

Township\Range:

020N006W

Section:

17

TRS comments:

App # 5034 T20N, R6W Sec 16 is ~ 1/4 to 1/2 mile
From this site last observed in 1887. The stream, wetland
etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract
and would cover concerns — See Page 1 Also —
For this plant.

#Name?

MTNHP ref. PDCAM06080*006*MT

Page 6 of 13

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: CYGNUS BUCCINATOR

Common Name: TRUMPETER SWAN

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2B,S2N

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

A SUBPOPULATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN POPULATION; PROBABLY 1-3 PAIRS BREEDING IN THIS AREA, POSSIBLY AT LAKES NOT CURRENTLY MAPPED. MAPPED LAKES INCLUDE ALL THOSE WHERE BREEDING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.

Last observation: 1994

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

POTHOLE LAKES, GENERALLY WITH SUFFICIENT WATER TO MAINTAIN EMERGENT VEGETATION THROUGH THE SUMMER.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); SUN RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Comments:

THOUGH ADDITIONAL PAIRS MAY BE PRESENT ON PRIVATE, SECLUDED LAKES IN THIS AREA, THIS SUBPOPULATION IS CLEARLY MARGINAL IN TERMS OF RECRUITMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN POPULATION, WHICH TOTALS SEVERAL THOUSAND ADULTS.

Information source

SCHWITTERS, MICHAEL T. CHOTEAU, MT. (406)466-2236. EMAIL: SCHWIT@3RIVERS.NET.

Survey site name: SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: NILAN RESERVOIR; BEAN LAKE; DOUBLE FALLS; BARR CREEK

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 4500

Location:

VARIOUS POTHOLE LAKES GENERALLY WEST TO SOUTHWEST OF AUGUSTA.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

020N008W

018N006W

018N007W

021N008W

19

02

03

- See Page 1 -

#Name?

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: THYMALLUS ARCTICUS MONTANUS

Common Name: MONTANA ARCTIC GRAYLING

Global Rank G5T2Q

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: SI

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: C

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

CANAL WITH RESIDENT POPULATION. FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL, FISH ARE CONFINED TO POOLS AT DROP STRUCTURES. SPAWN IN UPPER 6 MILES OF SUN SLOPE CANAL. THOUGH NOT A FLUVIAL POPULATION, THEIR UNIQUE ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES MAKE THESE FISH WORTH TRACKING.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

IRRIGATION CANALS.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); SUN RIVER PROJECT

Comments:

CANAL IS SOURCE OF FISH FOR INTRODUCTION. BOUNDARIES MAY VARY UP AND DOWN CANAL OVER TIME. GRAYLING HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN FAIRFIELD.

Information source

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 1959-TO DATE. MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM. INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT, FISHERIES DIVISION, HELENA, MT.
[HTTP://NRIS.STATE.MT.US/WIS/MRISI.HTML](http://NRIS.STATE.MT.US/WIS/MRISI.HTML) OR 406-444-3345.

Survey site name: SUN RIVER SLOPE CANAL

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: GOLDEN RIDGE; LOWRY; GILMAN; SPLIT ROCK JUNCTION; PISHKUN RESERVOIR

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 4150

Location:

THE SUN RIVER SLOPE CANAL, FROM ITS ORIGIN IN PISHKUN RESERVOIR TO THE GREENFIELDS MAIN CANAL, VIA THE SPRING VALLEY CANAL.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

021N005W

10

CENTRUM; 7 MORE TOWNSHIPS.

- See Page 1 -

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: DOWNINGIA LAETA

Common Name: GREAT BASIN DOWNINGIA

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

MOST PLANTS SINGLY SCATTERED IN PLAGIOBOTHRYIS SCOULERI, OTHERS BETTER DEVELOPED
BETWEEN POTENTILLA ANSERINA AND POLYGONUM SPP.

Last observation: 1988-06-29

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

TEMPORARILY FLOODED MEADOW IN "GUMBO"; MANY PLACES COVERED THICKLY WITH
PLAGIOBOTHRYIS SCOULERI, 2 INCHES HIGH.

Land owner/manager

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Comments:

NONE.

Information source

BOTANIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, HELENA, MT 59620-1800.

Survey site name: WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR

County: LEWIS AND CLARK

USGS quadrangle: SPLIT ROCK JUNCTION

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 4140

Location:

(WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR; CA. 4.5 MILES NW OF AUGUSTA.)

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

021N007W

14

SE4

App. # 5049 is in T 21 N R 7 W Sec. 11 S 4 S 4 W
~ 1 mile away from this site. The topographic map shows
no surface water for this tract. - Dissimilar habitat, - no impact likely
- See Page 1 - on this tract.

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stip.
will be utilized on this tract.

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: CHLIDONIAS NIGER

Common Name: BLACK TERN

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

SIX ADULTS OBSERVED.

Last observation: 1996-07-22

Size (acres):

General site description:

NEST IS ON A MAT OF BULRUSHES IN SILT/MUD SUBSTRATE ON A NATURAL, PERMANENT POND CA. 5000 METERS FROM THE FOREST EDGE; NEST IS CA. 10 METERS FROM THE SHORE AND CA. 3 METERS FROM OPEN WATER. WATER IS CA. 20 INCHES DEEP AT THE NEST. EMERGENT VEGETATION ON THE SHORELINE.

Land owner/manager

PISHKUN RESERVOIR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Comments:

OBSERVED BY J. REICHEL IN 1996. PHOTOS OF THE POND AND EGG WERE TAKEN. ALTHOUGH THE MAP SHOWS THIS POND AS BEING CONNECTED TO THE RESERVOIR, IT IS ACTUALLY ISOLATED BY LAND.

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800, HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: PISHKUN RESERVOIR

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: PISHKUN RESERVOIR

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4380

Location:

FROM TOWN OF CHOTEAU, GO SOUTH ON HWY 287 CA. 5 MILES, THEN TURN EAST ONTO GRAVEL ROAD. GO EAST CA. 15 MILES ON THIS ROAD TO PISHKUN RESERVOIR. SITE IS A POND ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE RESERVOIR.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

022N007W

3

SW4NE4

See Page 1

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: BUTEO REGALIS

Common Name: FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

BREEDING POPULATION OF AT LEAST 6 PAIRS. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ENCOMPASS ALL REPORTED NEST OBSERVATIONS LOCATED WITHIN 20 KM OF ONE ANOTHER IN THE GENERAL AREA. (SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Last observation: 1996-05

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

FULL EXTENT OF OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT IS UNKNOWN.

Information source

DUBOIS, KRISTI. REGION 4, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 4600 GIANT SPRINGS ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT 59406. 406-454-5840.

Survey site name: CHOTEAU WEST

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: TETON BUTTES; BYNUM; WATSON FLATS; BYNUM RESERVOIR; CHOTEAU; PISHKUN RESER

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

A LARGE AREA LYING WEST OF CHOTEAU AND BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF TOWN.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

024N005W

28

SPANS MULTIPLE TOWNSHIPS

— See Page 1 —

01-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties
APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102

Scientific Name: URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS

Common Name: GRIZZLY BEAR

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: SIS2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

OCCUPIED HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE IS APPARENTLY SEPARATED FROM THAT IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND BECOMING ISOLATED FROM POPULATIONS IN CANADA TO THE NORTH. THE POPULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 549-813 BEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF 306 BEARS (INCLUDING THE MISSION MOUNTAINS PORTION), ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. FROM 1987-1992, THE AVERAGE KNOWN HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY WAS 11.3 BEARS/YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FROM THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE AREAS WHERE BEARS ARE REPEATEDLY OBSERVED.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

GRIZZLIES USE A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS, FROM LOW-ELEVATION RIPARIAN AREAS TO ALPINE AND TALUS SLOPES.

Land owner/manager

SCAPEGUAT WILDERNESS; BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS; GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS; GLACIER NATIONAL PARK; FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST; LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST; HELENA NATIONAL FOREST; LOLO NATIONAL FOREST; CORPORATE TIMBERLANDS; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 34; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; MONTANA LAND RELIANCE EASEMENT 4; UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAND - BANDY RANCH; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 18; SWAN RIVER OXBOW PRESERVE

Comments:

"OCCUPIED HABITAT" IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE MTNHP ZOOLOGIST. (THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Information source

SERVHEEN, C. 1993. GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY PLAN. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FWS. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. 181 PP.

Survey site name: NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

County: FLATHEAD; GLACIER; PONDERA; TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK; POWELL; MISSOULA; LAKE; LINCOLN

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 3200

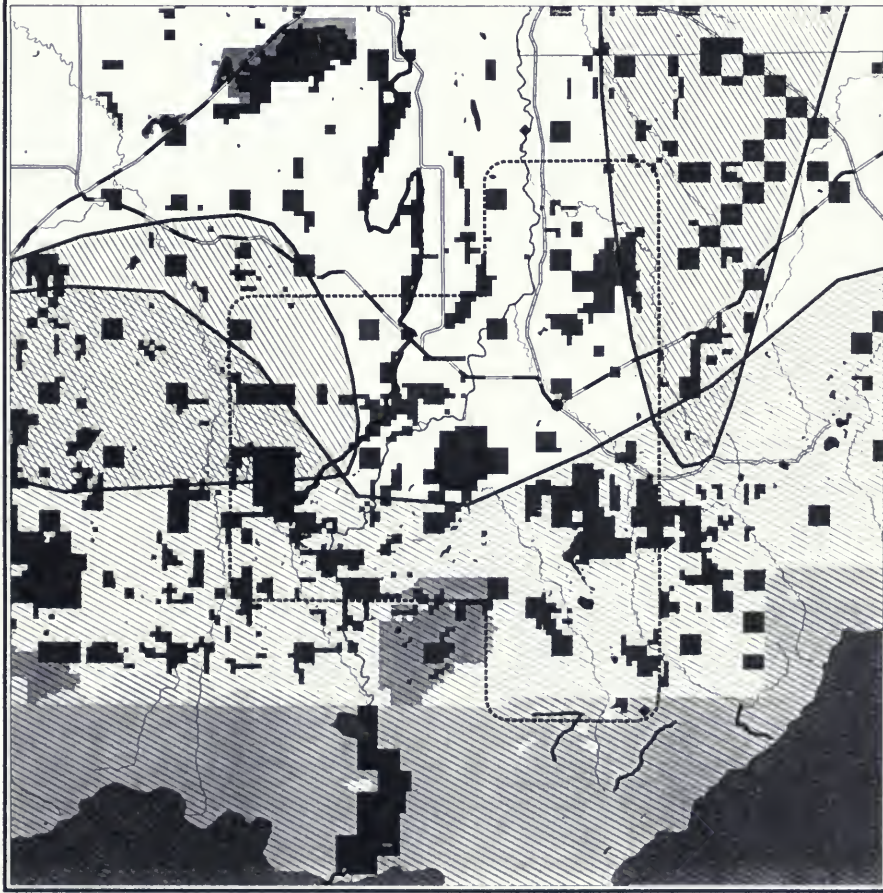
Location:

THIS RECORD ENCOMPASSES AN AREA FROM CANADA SOUTH TO STATE HIGHWAY 200, AND FROM EAST FRONT TO SWAN AND STILLWATER RIVERS.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

#Name?

Montana Species of Concern Lewis & Clark and Teton Counties APP# 5026-5058, 5078-5085 & 5102



- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 5 10 15 20



Request rhp6428]
October 01, 2001



02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Pondera County
APP# 5062

Scientific Name: BUTEO REGALIS

Common Name: FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Global Rank: G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

HIGH CONCENTRATION OF HAWKS IN THIS AREA. CA. 6 BREEDING PAIRS OBSERVED IN 1997 WITH CA.
10 ALTERNATE NESTS. (SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Last observation: 1997-05

Size (acres):

General site description:

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

FULL EXTENT OF OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT IS UNKNOWN.

Information source

DUBOIS, KRISTI. REGION 4, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 4600 GIANT SPRINGS
ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT 59406. 406-454-5840.

Survey site name: SOUTH OF VALIER

County: PONDERA

USGS quadrangle: LONE MAN COULEE EAST; VALIER EAST; LONE MAN COULEE WEST; SAM GEORGE HILL

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

SOUTH OF VALIER.

Township\Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
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028N005W		
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029N005W	00	
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029N004W	00	
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028N004W	00	
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Application Number 5062: T29N, R4W, Sec. 33
is primarily within the Ferruginous hawk
area. The wildlife survey stipulation
will be utilized on this tract's lease.



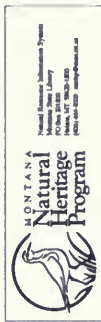
Montana Species of Concern Pondera County APP# 5062



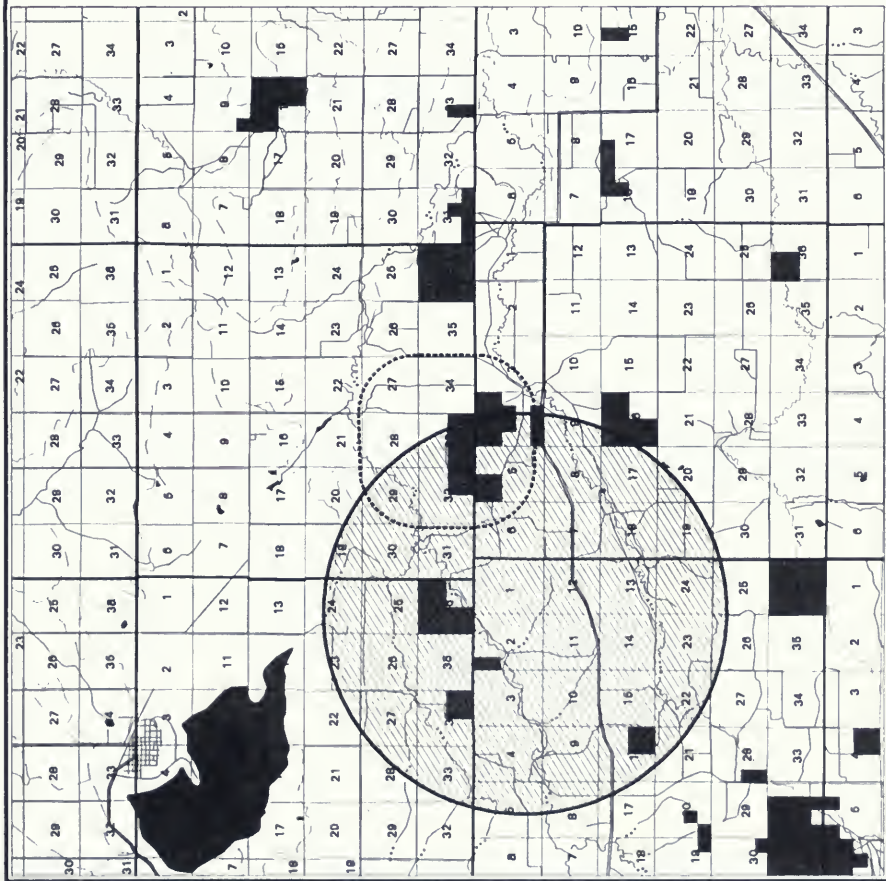
----- Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
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- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Request nhp6428k
October 01, 2001



02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Rosebud County
APP# 5009

Scientific Name: RORIPPA CALYCINA

Common Name: PERSISTENT-SEPAL YELLOW-CRESS

Global Rank: G3

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

UNKNOWN; STUCKEY (1972), P. 294, STATES: "FT. SARPY WAS LOCATED ON THE YELLOWSTONE ABOVE THE MOUTH OF THE TONGUE R. APPROX. WHERE SHEFFIELD IN WESTERN CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA IS TODAY".

Last observation: 1854-07-

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

SANDY BOTTOMS.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

SURVEYED FROM CANOE 9-14-99 BETWEEN ROSEBUD AND HORTON; THE COLLECTION AREA LIES NEAR THE EDGE OF THE ZONE WHERE THERE IS EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT AROUND MILES CITY. SUBSTRATES ARE MIXED COBBLE AND SAND.

Information source

STUCKEY, R. L. 1972. TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENUS RORIPPA (CRUCIFERAE) IN NORTH AMERICA. SIDA 4:279-430.

Survey site name: "FORT SARPY"(SHEFFIELD)

County: CUSTER

USGS quadrangle: HATHAWAY; HORTON

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 2405

Location:

"ON YELLOWSTONE (RIVER) NEAR FORT SARPY" (STUCKEY (1972), P. 294, NOTES THAT "FORT ALEXANDER SARPY WAS AT ABOUT THE PRESENT LOCATION OF SHEFFIELD" IN WEST CUSTER COUNTY).

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

007N045E

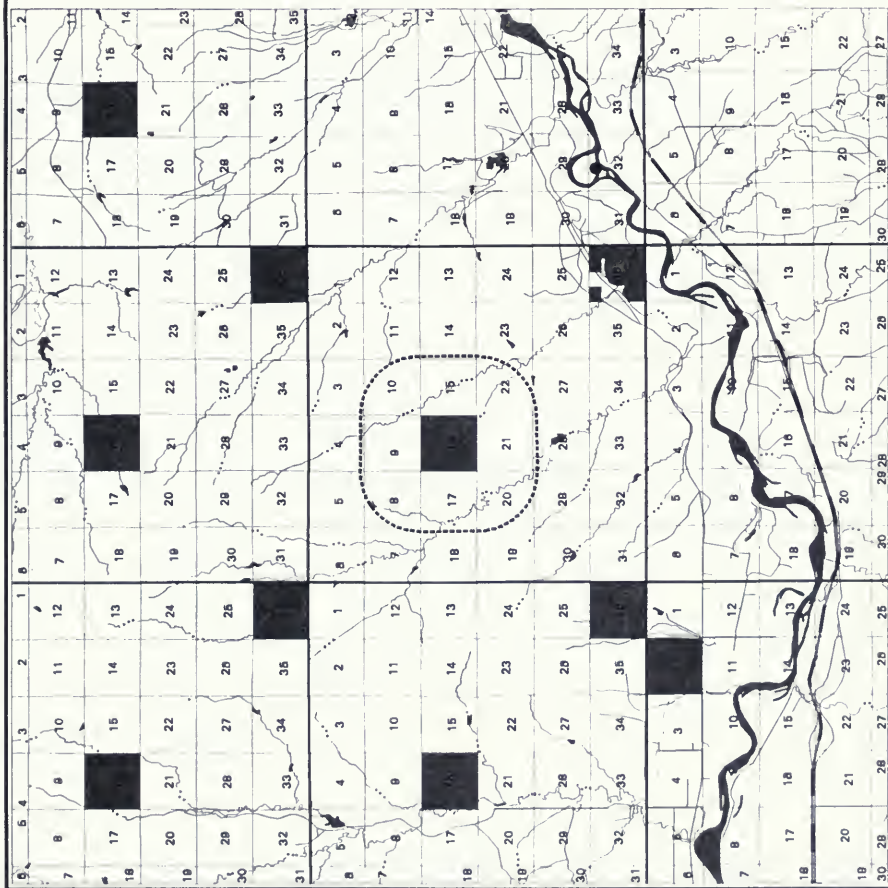
32

29,31

Application # 5009 T 7N R 44E Sec. 16
is not cut by the Yellowstone River. It is
~ 4 to 5 miles from this site.
- No impact -



Montana Species of Concern Rosebud County APP# 5009



Biological Data

- Point Locations
- Animal
 - Plant
 - Plant Community
 - Other

Land Status

- BLM
- BLM (Bullock)
- CoE & Other DOD
- National Park Service
- National Forests
- Other USDA
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal & Allotted
- State trust lands
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- University & Institutions
- Local government
- Plum Creek
- Private Conservation
- Other private
- Wilderness (all agencies)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers ("")
- Research Natural Areas ("")
- Other special areas
- (ACEC, OVA, ...)

..... Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have impracticably known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
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- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Montana Natural Heritage Program
Natural Resource Information System
Montana State Library
Helena, MT 59602
(406) 444-3200 mnhp@mt.gov

Request mnhp6428na
October 01, 2001

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Rosebud County
APP# 5065-5068

Scientific Name: CHARADRIUS MONTANUS

Common Name: MOUNTAIN PLOVER

Global Rank G2

Forest Service status: PROPOSED THREATENED

State Rank: S2B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: PT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS - REPORTED AS 'BREEDING', BUT NO DATA.

Last observation: 1995-06-15

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

UNKNOWN.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: SOUTH OF INGOMAR

County: TREASURE

USGS quadrangle: MCKONKEY CREEK; STEIE RANCH

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

CA. 8 AIR MILES SOUTH OF INGOMAR.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

008N035E

008N034E

Application Number 5063 T8N R35E Sec 16 and

Application Number 5066 T9N R34E Sec 36

Adjoining this plover area. It ^(each tract) has some similar
topography and stream drainages aspect.

The wildlife survey stipulation will be utilized
on these tracts' leases

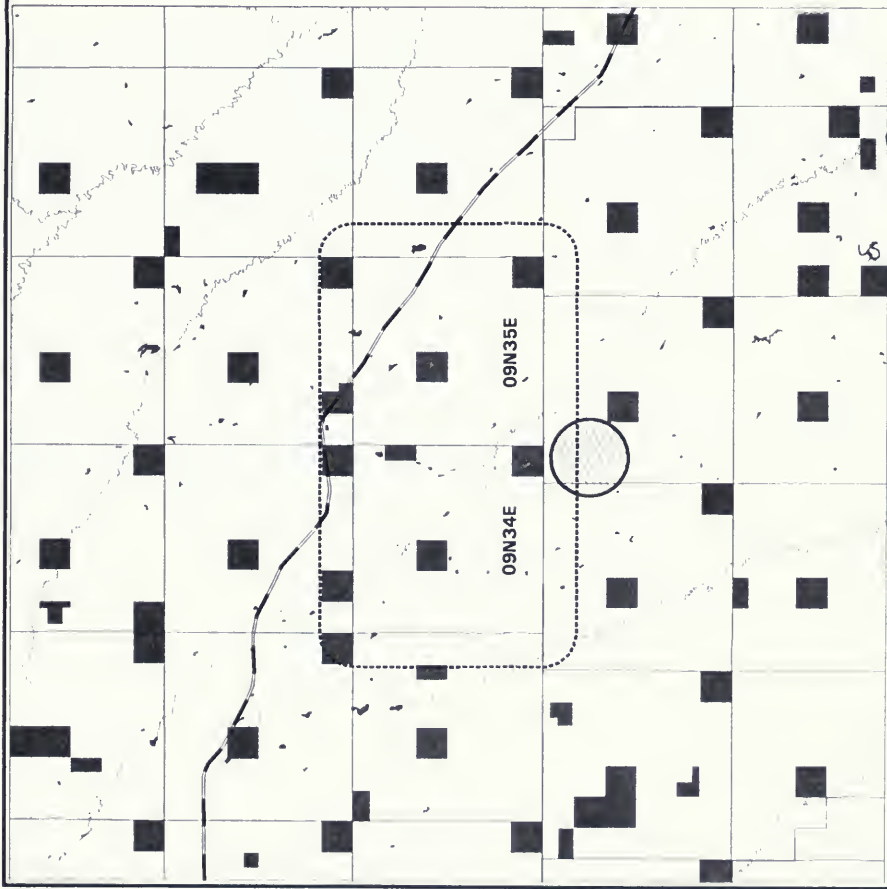
Application Numbers 5065 T9N, R34E, Sec. 16 and

5067 T9N, R35E Sec. 16

are 3-5 miles from the site, and they have higher elevation.

- NO impact -

Montana Species of Concern Rosebud County APP# 5065-5068



Biological Data

- Point Locations
- Animal: ◆
 - Plant: ●
 - Plant Community: (★)
 - Other: +

Populations covering large areas



Birds

Land Status

- BLM
- BOR (Burel)
- CoE & Other DOD
- National Park Service
- National Forests
- Other USDA
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal & Allotted
- State trust lands
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- University & institutions
- Local government
- Plum Creek
- Private Conservation
- Other private
- Wilderness (all agencies)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers (*)
- Research Natural Areas (*)
- Other special areas (ACEC, ONA, ...)

..... Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
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Scale of Miles 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14



Montana Natural Heritage Program
Natural Resource Information System
Montana State Library
Helena, MT 59601-0001
(406) 444-3227 mnhp@msl.mt.gov

Request mhp6428n
October 01, 2001

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI

Common Name: WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: AGGREGATED OCCURRENCE - OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF STREAMS: - WITH PURE POPULATIONS = 5; - WITH POTENTIALLY PURE POPULATIONS = 1; - WITH 90-99% PURE POPULATIONS = 2. IDENTIFIED 'POPULATION AGGREGATES': NONE.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

POPULATIONS TESTED PURE IN: COW, GREEN GULCH, WALDRON, N FK WILLOW CREEKS AND S & E FKs TETON RIVER.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POPULATIONS, CONTACT MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS OR QUERY THE MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM @ <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/mris1.html>.

Information source

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 1999. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT FOR WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT (ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI) IN MONTANA. 28PP.

Survey site name: TETON RIVER BASIN

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

THIS OCCURRENCE INCLUDES ALL STREAM SEGMENTS WITHIN THE TETON RIVER WATERSHED THAT SUPPORT POPULATIONS THAT ARE 90% OR MORE PURE.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on the leases for application numbers 5103 through 5122 in Teton County.

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI

Common Name: WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: AGGREGATED OCCURRENCE - OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF STREAMS: - WITH PURE POPULATIONS = 9; - WITH POTENTIALLY PURE POPULATIONS = 3; - WITH 90-99% PURE POPULATIONS = 8. IDENTIFIED POPULATION AGGREGATES: NONE.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

POPULATIONS TESTED PURE IN: BADGER CABIN, S FK BIRCH, M FK DUPUYER, LEE, N BADGER, RED POACHER, S BADGER, WHITEROCK, & E FK WOODS CREEKS.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POPULATIONS, CONTACT MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS OR QUERY THE MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM @ <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/mris1.html>.

Information source

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS. 1999. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT FOR WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT (ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI) IN MONTANA. 28PP.

Survey site name: TWO MEDICINE BASIN

County: PONDERA; TETON; GLACIER

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

THIS OCCURRENCE INCLUDES ALL STREAM SEGMENTS WITHIN THE TWO MEDICINE RIVER WATERSHED THAT SUPPORT POPULATIONS THAT ARE 90% OR MORE PURE.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

- See Page 1 -

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: FELIS LYNX

Common Name: LYNX

Global Rank: G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

POTENTIAL HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD CONSISTS OF LARGE CONTIGUOUS AREAS THAT WERE GENERALIZED FROM SPECIFIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED BY THE WILDLIFE SPATIAL ANALYSIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AS BEING POTENTIAL LYNX HABITAT.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

DENSE, MATURE OR OLD-GROWTH LODGEPOLE PINE, DOUGLAS-FIR, ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR FORESTS. WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERSTORY IMPORTANT.

Land owner/manager

Comments:

ALL HABITAT POLYGONS IN THE STATE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS OCCURRENCE RECORD. SOURCE DATA INCLUDES CAVEAT THAT SUITABLE HABITAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATED. SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS ABOVE 3500 FEET ELEVATION ARE PREFERRED HABITAT. LYNX NUMBERS CYCLE WITH NUMBERS OF SNOWSHOE HARE AND MAY BE VERY LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IN PREFERRED HABITAT. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE HABITAT MAPPING, THIS OCCURRENCE IS NOT DISPLAYED ON STANDARD MAPS OF ELEMENT OCCURRENCES.

Information source

HART, M. M., W. A. WILLIAMS, P. C. THORNTON, K. P. MCLAUGHLIN, C. M. TOBALSKE, B. A. MAXELL, D. P. HENDRICKS, C. R. PETERSON, AND R. L. REDMOND. 1998. MONTANA ATLAS OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT. MONTANA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. VII + 1302 PP.

Survey site name: STATEWIDE

County: BEAVERHEAD; CARBON; CASCADE; DEER LODGE; FLATHEAD; GALLATIN; GLACIER; GRANITE; JEFFERSON; JUDITH BASIN; LAKE; LEWIS AND CLARK; LINCOLN; MADISON; MEAGHER; MINERAL; MISSOULA; PARK; PONDERA; POWELL; RAVALLI; SANDERS; SILVER BOW; STILLWATER; SWEET GRASS; TETO

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER MULTIPLE QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

INCLUDES MUCH OF WESTERN & SOUTH CENTRAL MONTANA

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

- See Page 1 -

Note: Trees are ^{not} annotated on the topographic maps for application numbers 5103-5122 in Teton County. No impact likely

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: CYPRIPEDIUM PARVIFLORUM

Common Name: SMALL YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1200-3000 PLANTS IN 4 SUBPOPULATIONS, LATE FLOWERING.

Last observation: 1996-06-21

Size (acres): 280

General site description:

ON HUMMOCKS AND BENEATH SHRUBS ON MOIST, PARTIALLY SHADED TO OPEN GLACIAL OUTWASH PLAIN STREAM TERRACE. MARLY, CALCAREOUS PEAT, AND FINE ALLUVIUM PARENT MATERIAL, PEAT SOIL. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: BETULA GLANDULOSA, POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA, JUNCUS BALTICUS, SALIX BOOTHII, CAREX UTRICULATA, CAREX AQUATILIS, SALIX CANDIDA, SALIX SERISSIMA.

Land owner/manager

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

OBSERVED BY LESICA, CARR, AND HANNA. DISTURBANCE BY MODERATE CATTLE USE.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: BLACKLEAF

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: BLACKLEAF; VOLCANO REEF; TWIN LAKES

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4720

Location:

ALONG TRIBUTARY OF MUDDY CREEK, CA. 0.5 AIR MILE WEST OF BLACKLEAF. (ALSO ALONG COW CREEK AND BLACKLEAF CREEK PONDS.)

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

026N008W

15

NE4; 6 SE4; 5 SW4; 10 N2; 24 N2

- See Page 1 -

Note: For this EO & following plant EO's
only the subpopulation in section 6
is displayed.

4/24.

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: SCIRPUS PUMILUS SSP ROLLANDII

Common Name: SMALL CLUBRUSH

Global Rank G3Q

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

2000+ INDIVIDUALS IN 3 SUBPOPULATIONS, FLOWERING.

Last observation: 1996-06-21

Size (acres): 21

General site description:

GLACIAL OUTWASH PLAINS, OPEN, SATURATED STREAM TERRACE, MARLY PEAT PARENT MATERIAL, PEAT SOIL. ON HUMMOCKS WITHOUT DENSE PLANT COVER, WITH BETULA GLANDULOSA, POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA, JUNCUS BALTICUS, PARNASSIA PALUSTRIS, CAREX DIOICA, VIOLA NEPHROPHYLLA.

Land owner/manager

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

OBSERVED BY P. LESICA, D. CARR, AND D. HANNA. MODERATE LIVESTOCK USE IN AREA.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: MUDDY CREEK

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: BLACKLEAF; VOLCANO REEF; TWIN LAKES

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4570

Location:

FROM BYNUM, TAKE BLACKLEAF ROAD WEST CA. 13 MILES TO MUDDY CREEK.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

026N008W

15

NE4; 6 SE4; 24 N2

- See Page 1 -

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: CAREX LIVIDA

Common Name: PALE SEDGE

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S3

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

>10,000 INDIVIDUALS IN 3 SUBPOPULATIONS; IN EARLY FRUIT.

Last observation: 1996-06-21

Size (acres): 21

General site description:

GLACIAL OUTWASH PLAINS, OPEN, SATURATED STREAM TERRACE, MARLY PEAT PARENT MATERIAL, PEAT SOIL. GROWING ONLY IN FLOODED HOLLOWS BETWEEN HUMMOCKS IN FEN. WITH CAREX SIMULATA, C. LIMOSA, MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA, BETULA GLANDULOSA, POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA, JUNCUS BALTICUS, CAREX BUXBAUMII.

Land owner/manager

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

OBSERVED BY P. LESICA, D. CARR, AND D. HANNA. MODERATE LIVESTOCK USE IN AREA.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: MUDDY CREEK

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: BLACKLEAF; VOLCANO REEF; TWIN LAKES

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4570

Location:

FROM BYNUM, TAKE BLACKLEAF ROAD WEST CA. 13 MILES TO MUDDY CREEK.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

026N008W

15

NE4; 24 N2; 6 SE4

See Page 1

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: SALIX SERISSIMA

Common Name: AUTUMN WILLOW

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

2000-4000 PLANTS IN 4 SUBPOPULATIONS, FLOWERING.

Last observation: 1996-06-21

Size (acres): 160

General site description:

WET, OPEN, GLACIAL OUTWASH PLAIN STREAM TERRACE. MARLY PEAT PARENT MATERIAL, PEAT SOIL. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: BETULA GLANDULOSA, POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA, JUNCUS BALTICUS, SALIX CANDIDA, SALIX PLANIFOLIA, CAREX AQUATILIS, CAREX UTRICULATA, SALIX BOOTHII.

Land owner/manager

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

OBSERVED BY P. LESICA, D. CARR, AND D. HANNA. MODERATE LIVESTOCK USE; OTHER POPULATIONS IN AREA LIKELY.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: MUDDY CREEK

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: BLACKLEAF; VOLCANO REEF; TWIN LAKES

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4570

Location:

FROM BYNUM, TAKE BLACKLEAF ROAD WEST CA. 13 MILES TO MUDDY CREEK.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

026N008W

15

NE4; 10 N2; 6 SE4; 5 SW4; 24 N2

- See Page 1 -

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: SCORPIDIUM SCORPIOIDES

Common Name:

Global Rank G4G5

Forest Service status: SENSITIVE

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

5 SUBPOPULATIONS IN 3 MAJOR AREAS; OTHERS PROBABLE. PLANTS OCCUR IN NUMEROUS SMALL PATCHES.

Last observation: 1996-06-21

Size (acres): 21

General site description:

SUBMERGED, OPEN STREAM TERRACE ON GLACIAL OUTWASH PLAIN. MARLY PEAT SOILS, PLANTS OCCUR ONLY IN STAGNANT WATER OF MARLY DEPRESSIONS BETWEEN HUMMOCKS. CAREX SIMULATA-CAREX LIVIDA C.T. ADDITIONAL PLANT ASSOCIATES INCLUDE: MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA, DREPANOCLADUS SPP.

Land owner/manager

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

MODERATE LIVESTOCK USE. OBSERVED BY P. LESICA, D. CARR, AND D. HANNA.

Information source

LESICA, PETER. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT 59812.

Survey site name: BLACKLEAF

County: TETON

USGS quadrangle: BLACKLEAF; VOLCANO REEF; TWIN LAKES

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 4570

Location:

FROM BYNUM, TAKE BLACKLEAF ROAD WEST CA. 13 MILES TO MUDDY CREEK.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

026N008W

15

NE4; 6 SE4; 24 NW4NE4

See Page 1

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Teton County
APP# 5103-5122

Scientific Name: URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS

Common Name: GRIZZLY BEAR

Global Rank G4T3

Forest Service status: THREATENED

State Rank: SIS2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: LT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

OCCUPIED HABITAT. THIS OCCURRENCE IS APPARENTLY SEPARATED FROM THAT IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND BECOMING ISOLATED FROM POPULATIONS IN CANADA TO THE NORTH. THE POPULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 549-813 BEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF 306 BEARS (INCLUDING THE MISSION MOUNTAINS PORTION), ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. FROM 1987-1992, THE AVERAGE KNOWN HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY WAS 11.3 BEARS/YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FROM THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE AREAS WHERE BEARS ARE REPEATEDLY OBSERVED.

Last observation:

Size (acres):

General site description:

GRIZZLIES USE A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS, FROM LOW-ELEVATION RIPARIAN AREAS TO ALPINE AND TALUS SLOPES.

Land owner/manager

SCAPEGUAT WILDERNESS; BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS; GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS; GLACIER NATIONAL PARK; FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST; LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST; HELENA NATIONAL FOREST; LOLO NATIONAL FOREST; CORPORATE TIMBERLANDS; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 34; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 38; MONTANA LAND RELIANCE EASEMENT 4; UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAND - BANDY RANCH; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT 18; SWAN RIVER OXBOW PRESERVE

Comments:

"OCCUPIED HABITAT" IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE MTNHP ZOOLOGIST. (THE RECOVERY ZONE BOUNDARY AND BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Information source

SERVHEEN, C. 1993. GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY PLAN. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FWS. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA. 181 PP.

Survey site name: NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

County: FLATHEAD; GLACIER; PONDERA; TETON; LEWIS AND CLARK; POWELL; MISSOULA; LAKE; LINCOLN

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 3200

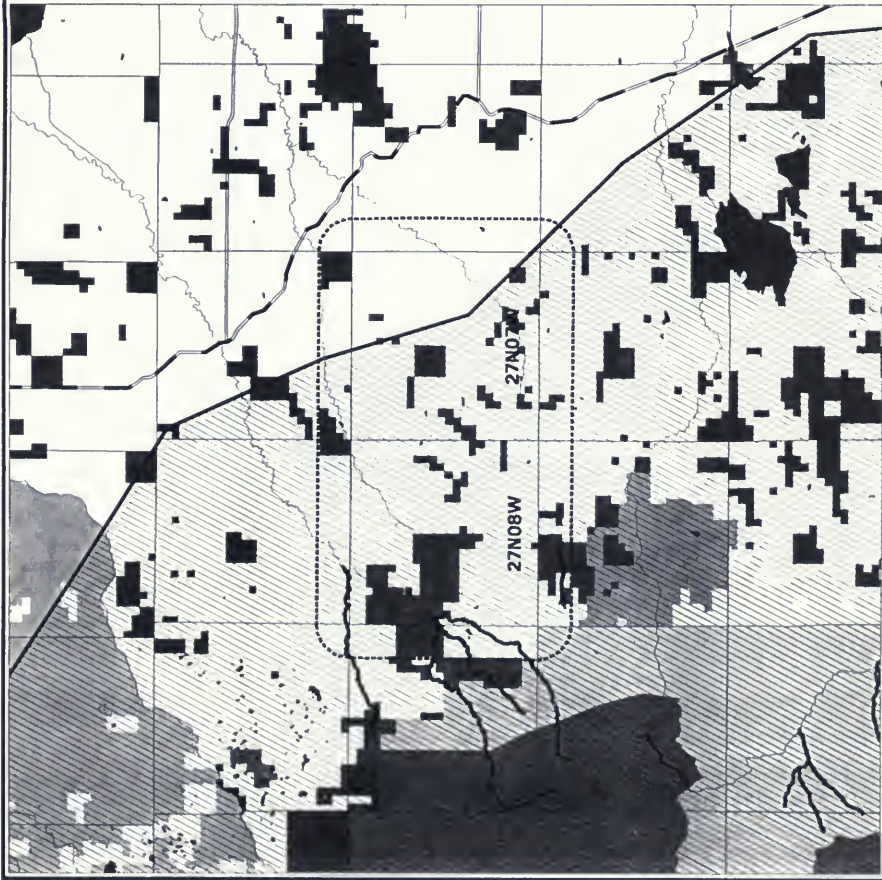
Location:

THIS RECORD ENCOMPASSES AN AREA FROM CANADA SOUTH TO STATE HIGHWAY 200, AND FROM EAST FRONT TO SWAN AND STILLWATER RIVERS.

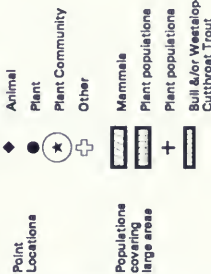
Township/Range: Section: TRS comments:

— See page 1 —

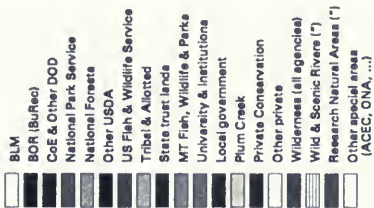
Montana Species of Concern Teton County APP# 5103-5122



Biological Data



Land Status



----- Search Area

- Species locations depicted outside the search area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the search area.
- Not all legend items may occur on map.
- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.



Montana Natural Heritage Program
PO Box 200000
Helena, MT 59620-0000
(406) 441-2000 montanaheritage.com

Request mhp8428q
October 01, 2001

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Toole County
APP# 5093

Scientific Name: BUTEO REGALIS

Common Name: FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S3B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

BREEDING POPULATION OF AT LEAST 1 PAIR. THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE WERE DRAWN TO ENCOMPASS SEVERAL NESTING OBSERVATIONS IN THE AREA. (SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.)

Last observation: 1994-06

Size (acres):

General site description:

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:

FULL EXTENT OF OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT IS UNKNOWN.

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: GALATA AREA

County: TOOLE

USGS quadrangle: DEVON; MCCARTERS LAKE SE; SOUTH DEVON SCHOOL; GALATA

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

NEAR TOWN OF GALATA.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

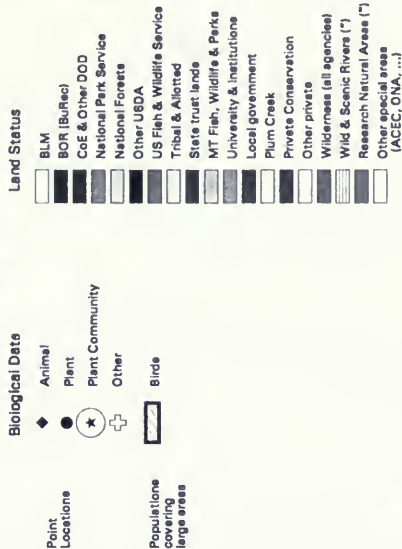
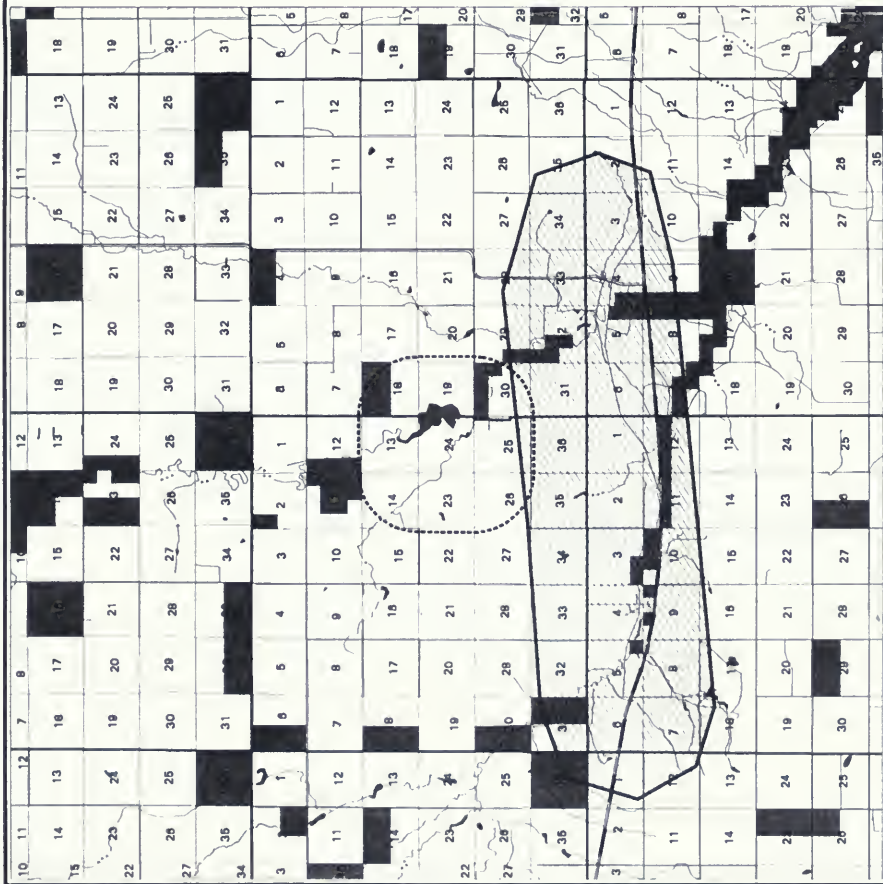
031N002E

2

SPANS MULTIPLE TOWNSHIPS

*Application # 5093 T32N, R2E, Sec 24
is ~ 3/4 to 1 3/4 miles from the north boundary
of this area. The topography is more rugged
in the site area. The BOGC Programmatic EIS
recommends a 3000 Ft buffer around Ferruginous hawk nests.
Since the tract is not within the hawk area and is sufficient
distance away, - No impact -*

Montana Species of Concern Toole County APP# 5093



..... Search Area

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Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Montana Natural Heritage Program
1000 N. 1st Street
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 443-2222 mnhp@dnr.mt.gov

Request nhp6428s
October 01, 2001

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Treasure County
APP# 5063-5064

Scientific Name: CHARADRIUS MONTANUS

Common Name: MOUNTAIN PLOVER

Global Rank: G2

Forest Service status: PROPOSED THREATENED

State Rank: S2B,SZN

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status: PT

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type: OCCUPIED BREEDING HABITAT

Species occurrence data:

SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS - REPORTED AS 'BREEDING', BUT NO DATA.

Last observation: 1995-06-15

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

UNKNOWN.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: SOUTH OF INGOMAR

County: TREASURE

USGS quadrangle: MCKONKEY CREEK; STEIE RANCH

Precision: G

Elevation (ft):

Location:

CA. 8 AIR MILES SOUTH OF INGOMAR.

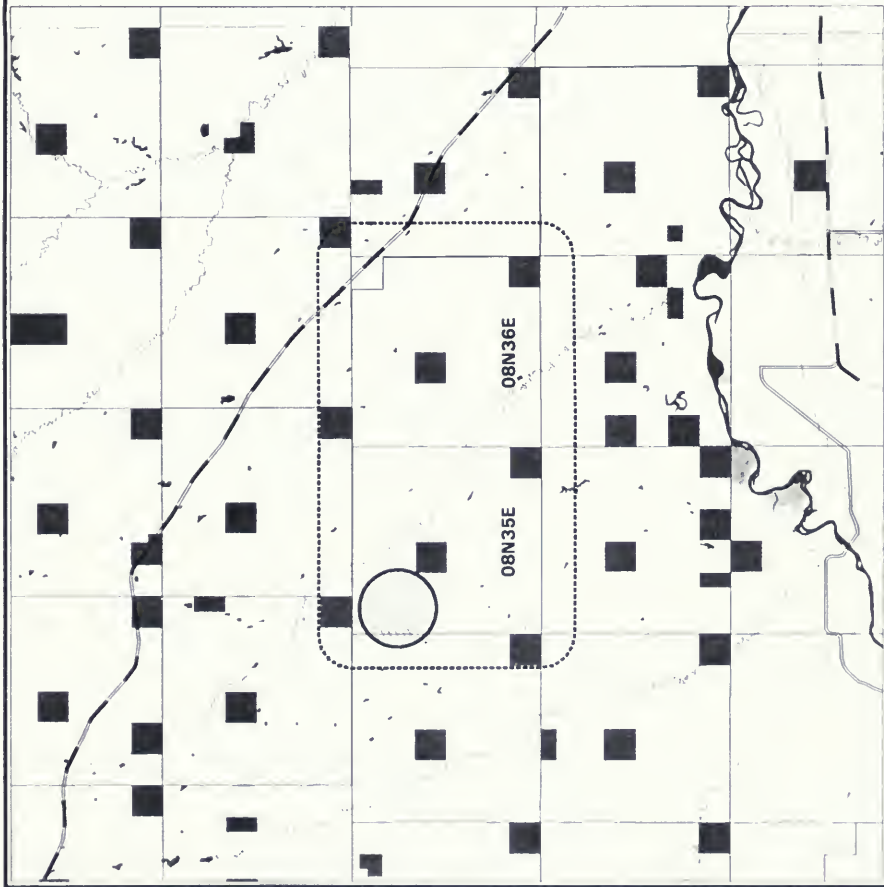
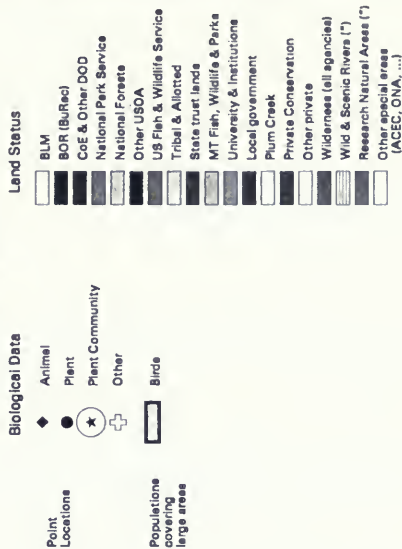
Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

008N035E

008N034E

*Application # 5063 T8N, R35E, Sec 16
is on the outside edge of this mountain plover area.
This section 16 has some flat areas similar to those
in section 8. The wildlife survey stipulation will be
utilized on this tract.*

Montana Species of Concern Treasure County APP# 5063-5064



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- Not all legend items may occur on map.

- Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.

- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.



Request nhp6428t
October 01, 2001

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Sheridan County
APP# 5061

Scientific Name: CRYPTANTHA FENDLERI

Common Name: FENDLER CAT'S-EYE

Global Rank: G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

EST. 10,000+ PLANTS IN 1999, A HIGH-RAINFALL YEAR, WIDELY SCATTERED AMONG DISCONTINUOUS PATCHES. POPULATION SIZES OF THIS ANNUAL SPECIES FLUCTUATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Last observation: 1999-07-17

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

OPEN SAND OF BLOWOUTS AND OTHER SPARSELY VEGETATED SETTINGS INCLUDING LIVESTOCK TRAILS AND OLD ROADS; WITH ORYZOPSIS HYMENOIDES, PSORALEA LANCEOLATA, STIPA COMATA, SPOROBOLUS CRYPTANDRUS, CYPERUS SCHWEINITZII.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED; MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE; MEDICINE LAKE WILDERNESS

Comments:

THERE IS A REPORTED, BUT UNMAPPED, POPULATION IN T31N R57E S33.

Information source

HEIDEL, B. 1999. FIELD SURVEYS AND RESULTING DOCUMENTATION CONDUCTED AS PART OF MTNHP STUDY PROJECTS, MAY 26-SEPT. 4, 1999.

Survey site name: MEDICINE LAKE SANDHILLS

County: SHERIDAN

USGS quadrangle: SUNNYHILL SCHOOL; CAPENEYS LAKE

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 1970

Location:

MEDICINE LAKE SANDHILLS, SOUTHEAST OF MEDICINE LAKE, CA.25 MILES NORTH OF CULBERTSON.

Township\Range: Section: TRS comments:

031N057E

031N058E

032N058E

032N057E

17,18,19

31

36

Application Number 5061, T31N R58E Sec 16, W2
is ~ 1/2 to 1 3/4 miles from the sites to the west in Sec. 17
The Field File notes sandy and sandy loam soils on the tract
with erosion in the SE 1/4 of the section.
Unimproved dirt roads and improved dirt roads are present on
the section's edges. In addition to the soil type,
with the proximity to the site and location down wind,
the plant survey stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.

MTNHP ref. PDBOR0A0X0*002*M

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Sheridan County
APP# 5061

Scientific Name: PHLOX ANDICOLA

Common Name: PLAINS PHLOX

Global Rank: G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

COMMON OVER LARGE AREA, ESTIMATED MORE THAN 1000 PLANTS. IN FRUIT AND LATE FLOWER.

Last observation: 1999-06-24

Size (acres): 20

General site description:

SANDY TERRACE ABOVE SAND CREEK, CODOMINATED BY STIPA COMATA AND PASCOPYRUM SMITHII, WITH BOTH PSORALEA ARGOPHYLLA AND PSORALEA LANCEOLATA.

Land owner/manager

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

LARGEST POPULATION KNOWN TO DATE.

Information source

BOTANIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, HELENA, MT 59620-1800.

Survey site name: SAND CREEK

County: SHERIDAN

USGS quadrangle: SUNNYHILL SCHOOL

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 2060

Location:

1 MILE SOUTH AND 2 MILES WEST OF SUNNYHILL SCHOOL; RESTRICTED ACCESS.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

031N058E

17

SW4

Application Number 5061, T31N, R58E, Sec. 16, W2
is ~ 1/2 to 1 1/2 miles from this site. The Field File notes
sandy and sandy loam soils on the tract. The tract shows
similar terraced topography and similar and higher elevation.

Similar habitat - { The vegetation survey stipulation will be
and location downwind } utilized on this tract's leave
of plant site



02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Sheridan County
APP# 5061

Scientific Name: LOBELIA SPICATA

Common Name: PALE-SPIKED LOBELIA

Global Rank G5

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S1

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

1943: LOCALLY ABUNDANT, IN FLOWER. 1999: NOT FOUND.

Last observation: 1943-07-24

Size (acres):

General site description:

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE.

Land owner/manager

MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Comments:

SPECIMEN LABEL READS, "MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE; 4 MILES ENE OF MEDICINE LAKE." OCCURRENCE MAPPED APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES NE OF MEDICINE LAKE (WATER BODY), WHICH IS ON THE REFUGE. HABITAT WAS SEARCHED IN AUGUST 1998 AND JULY 99 AND THE SPECIES WAS NOT FOUND. IT MAY HAVE BEEN INUNDATED BY DIKE SYSTEM OR PLOWED. REPORT OF DODECATHEON PULCHELLUM FROM THE SAME AREA BY FWS IS BASIS FOR INTERPRETING THAT THE SPECIES MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED.

Information source

SPECIMEN COLLECTION, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM, BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

Survey site name:

County: SHERIDAN

USGS quadrangle: DAGMAR

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 1950

Location:

4 MILES NORTHEAST OF MEDICINE LAKE.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

032N057E

13

Application Number 5061 T31N, R58E Sec 16, W2
is ~ 5-6 miles away from this site ^{Wet Lakes/potholes}
of lakes are not present on this tract ^{shown by topo map}. Most of the tract is
ag. land. The stream, wetland, etc buffer stipulation utilized
on this tract's lease would cover the wetland-type area where this
plant might be. The plant survey stipulation is already to be
utilized on this tract's lease, so it would cover it as well.
Distance indicates no impact to
the site in T32N, R57E, Sec. 13

02-Oct-01

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Species of Special Concern: Sheridan County
APP# 5061

Scientific Name: CRYPTANTHA FENDLERI

Common Name: FENDLER CAT'S-EYE

Global Rank G4

Forest Service status:

State Rank: S2

USFWS Endangered Species Act Status:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

COMMON.

Last observation: 1943-07-29

Size (acres):

General site description:

ALONG PRAIRIE ROAD.

Land owner/manager

MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE; PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); MEDICINE-BRUSH WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

Comments:

Information source

BOTANIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, HELENA, MT 59620-1800.

Survey site name: MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

County: SHERIDAN

USGS quadrangle: DAGMAR

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 1970

Location:

MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. ALONG PRAIRIE ROAD 5 MILES NORTHEAST OF MEDICINE LAKE.

Township\Range:

Section:

TRS comments:

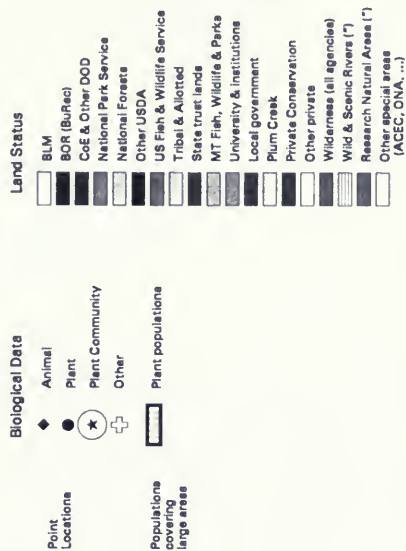
032N058E

18

Application Number 5061 T31N, R58E, Sec 16, W2
is ~ 5-6 miles away from this site. Lakes on portions of
lakes are not present on this tract.

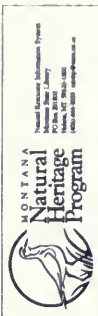
Distance indicates no impact to site listed above.
The vegetation survey stipulation is being utilized on
this tract for Fendler's cat's-eye due to proximity and
similar sandy soil for previous site on page 1.

Montana Species of Concern Sheridan County APP# 5061

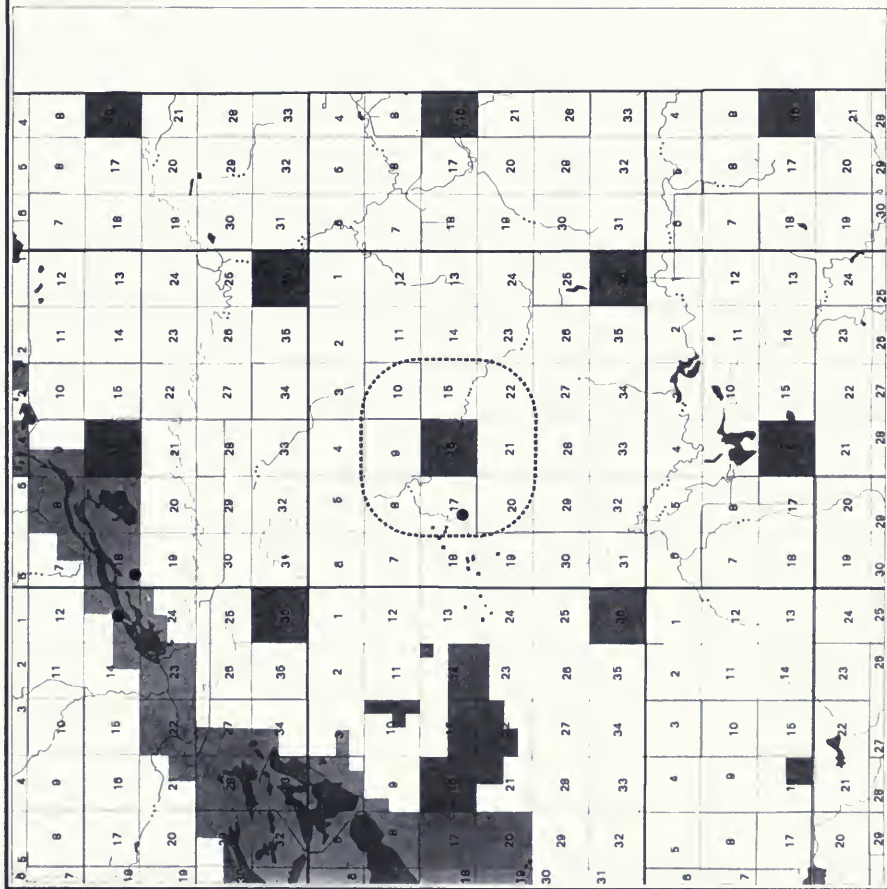


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- Refer to accompanying documentation for full explanation of map features.

Scale of Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Request nhp64280
October 01, 2001



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2001

D.N.R.C.



STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 228-2430 Telephone
(406) 228-2439 FAX
co6593@state.mt.us
Hrichards@state.mt.us

GLASGOW UNIT OFFICE
PO BOX 1007
224 6 STREET SOUTH
GLASGOW, MONTANA 59230-1007

October 3, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Teresa Kinley, Hydrologist/Geologist, Minerals Management Bureau

FR: Randy Dirkson, Land Use Specialist, Glasgow Unit Office

RE: December 4, 2001 Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Attached are the comments for the December 4, 2001, Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale from the Glasgow Unit Office. Should you have any questions, please contact the Glasgow Unit Office personnel.

CC: NELO

STATE OF MONTANA
OIL & GAS LEASE SALE - DECEMBER 4, 2001

HYDROLOGIST'S REPORT

APP#	TOPO	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
------	------	-----	-----	-----	-------------	-------

LESSOR: DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

BLAINE (NELO-H, FWP-6)

5002 Tule Lake Richmond Reservoir	35.N	20.E	36	ALL	* STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE.	640.00
--------------------------------------	------	------	----	-----	---	--------

CUSTER (ELO, FWP-7)

5003 Butterfly Creek	8.N	45.E	16	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, S2N2, S2		629.48
5004 N Bar Coulee	9.N	45.E	16	ALL		640.00
5005 N Bar Coulee Angela NE	10.N	45.E	16	ALL		640.00

DANIELS (NELO-G, FWP-6)

5086 Peerless 4 NW West Fork NE	34.N	46.E	18	LOTS 3, 4, E2SW4, N2NE4, SE4		395.34
------------------------------------	------	------	----	------------------------------	--	--------

This tract is comprised of native rangeland and conservation reserve program acreage. Tract has habitat resources for upland birds and whitetail deer. There is non-developed spring located on the NW4NNE4NW4SE4 of this tract. There is also a cabin site located on the NW4NE4, that is used by surface lessee's relatives. *Cabin site covered by set-backs in lease's operating plan review. The CRP stipulation and the stream, spring, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.*

5087 Peerless 4 NW West Fork NE	34.N	46.E	19	LOT 1, E2NE4, E2NW4		197.79
------------------------------------	------	------	----	---------------------	--	--------

This tract is comprised of native rangeland. It has habitat resources for upland birds and whitetail deer. This tract also has a reclaimed oil well drilling site on the NW4NW4.

Comments noted.

5088 Peerless 4 NW	34.N	46.E	20	SE4NE4, NW4, NE4SE4		240.00
--------------------	------	------	----	---------------------	--	--------

This tract is comprised of native rangeland. It has habitat resources for upland birds and whitetail deer. *Comments noted*

FALLON (ELO, FWP-7)

5090 Webster	4.N	61.E	16	ALL		640.00
5091 Webster Scole School	4.N	61.E	22	W2		320.00
5092 Baker	6.N	59.E	24	S2N2, SW4	* STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE.	320.00

HILL (NELO-H, FWP-6)

5060 Laredo	30.N	14.E	5	LOTS 1, 3, 4, SE4NE4, S2NW4, SW4	*	399.77
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5020	Rough Creek SE Wild Horse Pass	10.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00
5021	Angela Hobo Coulee	10.N	44.E	16	ALL	640.00

PAGE 4

APP#	TOPO	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
5022	Hobo Coulee N Bar Coulee	10.N	44.E	36	ALL	640.00
5023	Rudie Coulee Rough Creek NE	11.N	40.E	36	ALL	640.00
5024	Rough Creek NE	11.N	41.E	16	ALL	640.00
5025	Rough Creek NE Van Burton Creek	11.N	41.E	36	ALL	640.00

SHERIDAN (NELO-G, FWP-6)

5061	Sunnyhill School	31.N	58.E	16	W2	320.00
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This tract is comprised of dryland agriculture and native rangeland. Tract has minimal habitat resources for upland birds *Comments noted.*

STILLWATER (SLO, FWP-5)

5089	Hunter Lake	1.N	21.E	36	ALL	640.00
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TETON (CLO-C, FWP-4)

5035	Gilman	21.N	6.W	3	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4	161.52
5036	Gilman Split Rock Junction	21.N	6.W	4	LOT 3, SE4NW4, N2SW4, SE4SW4, * S2SE4 STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE IN THE S2SE4 AND PART SE4NW4	280.63
5037	Split Rock Junction	21.N	6.W	5	LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, SE4NE4, S2NW4, NE4SE4	322.00
5040	Split Rock Junction	21.N	6.W	8	NE4, N2S2	320.00
5041	Split Rock Junction Gilman	21.N	6.W	9	NE4NE4, S2NE4, E2NW4, N2S2	360.00
5042	Gilman	21.N	6.W	14	W2W2	160.00
5043	Gilman Split Rock Junction	21.N	6.W	16	ALL	640.00
5045	Gilman	21.N	6.W	22	S2SW4	80.00
5046	Gilman	21.N	6.W	23	W2W2	160.00
5051	Pishkun Reservoir	22.N	6.W	20	E2SE4 STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE.	80.00
5052	Pishkun Reservoir	22.N	6.W	28	W2E2, NW4, N2SW4, SE4SW4	440.00

October 17, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Teresa Kinley, Hydro-Geologist, MMB

FROM: Casey Kellogg, Havre Unit Manager, NELO

RE: December 4, 2001 Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Blaine and Hill Counties

I have reviewed each tract of land associated with this proposed Oil & Gas lease sale. I included comments for the pieces of land that are located within the Havre Unit. I do not have information of the CRP status on the tracts of land where the state does not own the surface.

I recommend proceeding with the standard lease sale on all the tracts of land reviewed in this MEMO.

STATE OF MONTANA
OIL & GAS LEASE SALE - DECEMBER 4, 2001

HYDROLOGIST'S REPORT

APP#	TOPO	TWP	RGE	SEC	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
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LESSOR: DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

BLAINE (NELO-H, FWP-6)

5002	Tule Lake Richmond Reservoir	35.N	20.E	36	ALL STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE.	* 640.00
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There are no special features on this tract.

HILL (NELO-H, FWP-6)

5060	Laredo	30.N	14.E	5	LOTS 1, 3, 4, SE4NE4, S2NW4, SW4 STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE IN LOTS 3, 4, S2NW4, SW4	* 399.77
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This tract consists of both cropland and grazing land. Big Sandy Creek and Middle Coulee both go through this tract.

The sensitive area stipulation will be utilized on this tract since it is within the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation. This stipulation will cover concerns regarding Big Sandy Creek and Middle Coulee.

Kinley, Teresa

From: Moore, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2001 10:40 AM
To: Kinley, Teresa
Subject: December Oil and Gas Sale Comments

Hi Teresa,

Attached are my comments for the upcoming sale. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sharon



Dec Oil Sale.doc

HYDROLOGIST'S REPORT

This section is all grazing land with erosive soils and some gumbo hills. Little Porcupine Creek meanders through the center of the section. There was some beaver activity on the creek.

5007 Rosebud 7.N 42.E 16 ALL 640.00

This is really rough breaky country with erosive soils and access may be restricted. The trail to this section was very eroded and it can be very difficult to stabilize these soils once they are disturbed. *The unstable soils/steep-topography topography stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.*

5008 Thurlow 7.N 43.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is all grazing and has erosive soils and some gumbo hills. Sand Creek runs through this section and is deeply channeled. There was a small patch of Canada thistle, standard weed stipulation should be adequate. *Comment noted on weeds, etc. The stream buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils & hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5009 Hathaway 7.N 44.E 16 ALL 640.00

This is a very rough section of land with a lot of badlands and hills. Soils are very erosive and access may be restricted because of topography. *The unstable Soils/steep-rough topography stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.*

5010 Schultz Coulee 8.N 41.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is all grazing land with erosive soils and some steep hills. There is a creek present. *The unstable Soils/steep-rough topography stipulation and the stream buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.*

5011 Schultz Coulee 8.N 41.E 36 ALL 640.00

This section is grazing land with erosive soils and some hills. There is a tributary to Horse Creek on this section. *The stream, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5012 Hathaway NW 8.N 44.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is all grazing with erosive soils and some barren gumbo hills. Coal Creek runs through the section. *The stream, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5013 Hathaway NW 8.N 44.E 36 ALL 640.00

This section is grazing land with erosive soils. There is one large reservoir present. When I did a renewal in 1986 I mentioned a large active prairie dog town in my report. When Marc did a renewal in 1995 there is no mention of prairie dogs so I'm not certain if they are still present or not.

5065 Ingomar West 9.N 34.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is grazing land with erosive soils and no water sources.

5066 Willow Creek 9.N 34.E 36 ALL 640.00

This section is grazing land with erosive soils. There is one pit/reservoir for livestock water. *The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5067 Ingomar East 9.N 35.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is very gently rolling grazing land with erosive soils. There are no water sources.

5068 Steie Ranch 9.N 35.E 36 ALL 640.00

This section is grazing land with gently rolling hills. Soils are erosive and there is one large reservoir. *The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5014 Black Coulee 9.N 40.E 36 ALL 640.00

Steie Ranch
This section is grazing land with some rolling hills with erosive soils. There is one dam present. *The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Hills & Soils are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5015 Rough Creek SE 9.N 41.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section has rolling to rough hills with erosive soils. There are two stockwater reservoirs and Wolf Creek runs through the section. *The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5016 Schultz Coulee 9.N 41.E 36 ALL * 640.00

STATE DOES NOT OWN THE SURFACE.

This section appears to be all grazing land with a creek and one large reservoir. I'm sure soils are probably erosive. *The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be applied to this tract's lease. Soils are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.*

5017 Hobo Coulee 9.N 44.E 16 ALL 640.00
 This section is grazing land with erosive soils and some gumbo hills. South Sunday Creek runs through a large part of the section. The stream, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.

5018 Hathaway NW 9.N 44.E 36 ALL 640.00
 Butterfly Creek

This section is all grazing land with gently rolling hills and erosive soils. South Sunday Creek runs through the section. The stream, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.

5019 Rough Creek SE 10.N 41.E 16 ALL 640.00
 Rough Creek NE

This section is all grazing land with erosive soils and part of the section has some rough gumbo hills. There are two stockwater reservoirs. The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.

5020 Rough Creek SE 10.N 41.E 36 ALL 640.00
 Wild Horse Pass

This section is all grazing land with over half of the section being very rough badlands. Soils are very erosive and access may be restricted because of topography. There are two reservoirs. The unstable soils / steep rough topography stipulation and the stream reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.

5021 Angela 10.N 44.E 16 ALL 640.00
 Hobo Coulee

This section has 484.2 acres of cropland with the remainder being grazing. Soils on this section are erosive. The West Fork of Sunday Creek runs through the section. The stream, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.

5022 Hobo Coulee 10.N 44.E 36 ALL 640.00
 N Bar Coulee

This section is grazing land with very poor erosive soils. There are some badlands present and access may be restricted because of topography. The unstable soils / steep rough topography stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.

5023 Rudie Coulee 11.N 40.E 36 ALL 640.00
 Rough Creek NE

This section is grazing land with rolling hills and erosive soils. There is one dam and a creek present. The stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease. Soils and hills are covered under basic stip one - site specific operating plan review.

5024 Rough Creek NE 11.N 41.E 16 ALL 640.00

This section is very scenic rough grazing land with very erosive soils. Access may be restricted because of topography. There is one small dam. The unstable soils / steep rough topography stipulation and the stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.

5025 Rough Creek NE 11.N 41.E 36 ALL 640.00
 Van Burton Creek

This section is grazing land with erosive soils. Access may be restricted because of badlands and rough topography. There is one dam present.

The unstable soils / steep rough topography stipulation and the stream, reservoir, etc. buffer stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.

Kinley, Teresa

From: Gary Olson [grolson@mcn.net]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2001 3:14 PM
To: Kinley, Teresa
Cc: Taylor, Graham
Subject: Re: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001

Teresa: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the up-coming oil and gas lease Sale. I have looked all the tracts over and can find no areas of particular concern, except for tract 5122, which is adjacent to an extremely important deer and elk winter range and is utilized during periods of severe weather by both species. Oil and gas activity between December 1 and May 1 could have adverse effects on those animals due to displacement caused by human activities. If you have additional questions, please call (or e-mail). Thanks.

Gary Olson

----- Original Message -----

From: "Kinley, Teresa" <tkinley@state.mt.us>

To: "Olson, Gary" <grolson@mcn.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 3:12 PM

Subject: FW: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001

The Rocky Mountain Front, will be utilized on this tract due to its location west of the Hwy and within the MT-NHP grizzly bear area.
sensitive areas stipulation

> I have revised the date in the letter FW4OLSN.doc so I am sending it and the

> other information to you again.

> Teresa

> > -----Original Message-----

> > From: Kinley, Teresa

> > Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 2:40 PM

> > To: Olson, Gary

> > Subject: MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale, December 4, 2001

> > Importance: High

> >

> > I am sending the tract list and my request for comments letter as attached

> > files in Word 2000 format. The tract list is a Word 2000 file,

> > HYDRODEC.doc and it is in plain text, Courier New font, 10 point size.

I

> > have also attached an additional Word 2000 file which includes a general

> > location map for informational purposes. Please let me know if you are

> > unable to open this file format.

> >

> > As noted in the attached letter, the deadline for comments is October 24,

> > 2001. You do not need to include tracts outside your area in the comments

> > that you return. Comments can be returned by postal mail or electronic

> > mail. Please contact me at (406) 444-2074 if you have questions. Thank

> > you for your assistance.

> >

> >

> > <<FW4OLSN.doc>> <<HYDRODEC.doc>> <<DECMAP01.doc>>

>

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
CONRAD UNIT OFFICE



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 278-7869
FAX: (406) 278-7077

PO BOX 961
CONRAD, MONTANA 59425-0961

RECEIVED

OCT 23 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 22, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Teresa Kinley, Hydrogeologist, Minerals Management Bureau

FROM: Erik Eneboe, Conrad Unit Manager, CLO

SUBJ: December 4, 2001 Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Conrad Unit, CLO
Pondera, Glacier, Teton & Toole Counties

Steve Dobson has reviewed each tract of land associated with the proposed Oil and Gas lease sale on December 4, 2001. This MEMO contains general and specific comments for the tracts that are located within the Conrad Unit. Per your request, I have also included comments on non-state owned surfaces.

I recommend proceeding with the standard lease sale on all tracts of land reviewed in this MEMO. I believe potential development of Oil and Gas operations on these tracts (both state and private lands) is prudent and is possible using mitigation measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Several of these tracts are located on the Rocky Mountain Front and may contain unique wildlife and wildlife habitat. I recommend placing the "Rocky Mountain Front/Wildlife" Special Stipulation on to all applications in Teton County.

cc: Mark Ahner, Area Manager, CLO

The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be recommend for tracts in Teton County on the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease sale except for application numbers 5042 T21N R6W Sec. 14 W2W2

*5045 T21N, R6W, Sec 22 S2SW4
and 5046 T21N, R6W, Sec 23 W2W2*

MT-DFWP did not have any comments on these 3 tracts. From MT Natural Heritage Program information, they are located outside of the grizzly bear area. In addition Hwy 287 cuts portions of these tracts. Normal applicable stipulations are proposed for these tracts.

October 17, 2001

TO: Teresa Kinley, Hydro- geologist, MMB
FROM: Steve Dobson, LUS, CLO
RE: December 4, 2001 Oil & Gas Sale, Pondera, Toole, & Teton Counties

PONDERA

#5062 native rangeland, no environmental concerns

TOOLE

#5001 CRP *The CRP stipulation will be utilized on this tract's land.*

#5093 Cultivated small grain agricultural production

TETON

#5035 native rangeland, missile cable ROW

#5036 irrigated hay land in S2SE4, remainder in native rangeland

#5037 native rangeland

#5040 irrigated hay land in N2S2, remainder in native rangeland

#5041 native rangeland

#5042 irrigated hay land mixed with native rangeland

#5043 Reservoir in NE4, irrigated hay land in E2SE4, remainder in native rangeland

#5045 Highway 287 ROW, missile cable ROW, native rangeland

#5046 Highway 287 ROW, irrigated hay land in N2, remainder in native rangeland

#5051 cultivated small grain agricultural production

- #5052 Irrigated hay land native rangeland mix
- #5053 32.5 acres CRP in S2, remainder is irrigated hay production
The CRP stipulation will be utilized on this tract.
- #5054 native rangeland
- #5055 native rangeland
- #5056 native rangeland
- #5057 Sun River through S2 of tract, native rangeland
The navigable river - no surface occupancy stipulation will be utilized on this tract.
- #5058 Sun River through SW4, irrigated hay land in SW4, remainder in native rangeland
The navigable river - no surface occupancy stipulation will be utilized on this tract.
- #5103 native rangeland
- #5104 native rangeland
- #5105 native rangeland
- #5106 native rangeland
- #5107 spring in W2 of tract, native rangeland
- #5108 native rangeland
- #5109 native rangeland
- #5110 Dry Fork of Marias River cuts SE4SE4, small grain agricultural production
- #5111 native rangeland, tame pasture
- #5112 native rangeland
- #5113 spring in SW4NE4, native rangeland
- #5114 spring in S2N2, native rangeland

#5115	reservoir in S2N2, native rangeland, tame pasture
#5116	spring in NW4NE4, native rangeland
#5117	cultivated small grain production
#5118	native rangeland
#5119	native rangeland, tame pasture
#5120	native rangeland, tame pasture
#5121	native rangeland
#5122	native rangeland

Kinley, Teresa

From: Marceau, Bonnie
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2001 3:58 PM
To: Kinley, Teresa; 'mwacent@wildmontana.org'
Cc: Taylor, Graham; Sihler, Paul
Subject: O&G Lease Sale Comments

Attached is letter from:

Mike Aderhold

Region 4 Supervisor
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (406) 454-5846
E-mail: maderhold@state.mt.us



Kinley, DNRC.doc

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT. 59405

October 24, 2001

Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Oil & Gas Lease Sale Comments
Attn: Teresa Kinley

Dear Teresa:

My staff and I have reviewed the 82 tracts in FWP Region 4 nominated for the December 4, 2001 sale. We have wildlife concerns about 11 tracts along the East Front and 2 tracts in the bed of the Sun River.

We would like the "Conservation Stipulation, 4(h)" applied to all 13 tracts.

5122 Blackleaf – this tract is at the eastern edge of the best mule deer winter range along the whole of the East Front. It is also very close to important elk winter range.

5074, 5095, 5097, 5098, 5101 and 5075 – are all west of Haystack Butte. This land is spring grizzly habitat and good mule deer winter range. It is also hard winter, elk habitat.

5070 & 5071 Johnson Mountain and 5072 & 5073 Bean Lake – all four of these tracts are in prime spring grizzly habitat and important mule deer habitat. The land is also close to elk calving grounds and elk winter range. In tough winters it is elk winter range.

5074 & 5077 Gilman – both tracts are in the bed of the Sun River. The Sun is a wreck of a river but it still has the potential to become a decent trout fishery. FWP hasn't given up on this reach, even though it is sometimes dewatered. We would be concerned about surface development and feel it warrants a closer look if this lease is ever exercised.

Call me if you have any questions 406-454-5846.

Sincerely,

Mike Aderhold
Region 4 Supervisor

cc: Paul Sihler, FWP-Helena



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT. 59405

October 24, 2001

Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED
OCT 25 2001
D.N.R.C.

Oil & Gas Lease Sale Comments
Attn: Teresa Kinley

Dear Teresa:

My staff and I have reviewed the 82 tracts in FWP Region 4 nominated for the December 4, 2001 sale. We have wildlife concerns about 11 tracts along the East Front and 2 tracts in the bed of the Sun River.

We would like the "Conservation Stipulation, 4(h)" applied to all 13 tracts.

5122 Blackleaf – this tract is at the eastern edge of the best mule deer winter range along the whole of the East Front. It is also very close to important elk winter range. *It is also within the MT-WHP grizzly bear area. The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on this tract's lease.*

5074, 5095, 5097, 5098, 5101 and 5075 – are all west of Haystack Butte. This land is spring grizzly habitat and good mule deer winter range. It is also hard winter, elk habitat. *The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on the leases of these 6 tracts.*

5070 & 5071 Johnson Mountain and 5072 & 5073 Bean Lake – all four of these tracts are in prime spring grizzly habitat and important mule deer habitat. The land is also close to elk calving grounds and elk winter range. In tough winters it is elk winter range. *The Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation will be utilized on the leases of these four tracts.*

²⁶
5074 & 5027 Gilman – both tracts are in the bed of the Sun River. The Sun is a wreck of a river but it still has the potential to become a decent trout fishery. FWP hasn't given up on this reach, even though it is sometimes dewatered. We would be concerned about surface development and feel it warrants a closer look if this lease is ever exercised.

The navigable rivers NSO stipulation will be utilized on the leases of app. #'s 5026 and 5027.
Call me if you have any questions 406-454-5846.

Sincerely,

Mike Aderhold
Region 4 Supervisor

cc: Paul Sihler, FWP-Helena

Kinley, Teresa

From: Dillon, Bob
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2001 1:24 PM
To: Kinley, Teresa
Subject: Oil and Gas Lease Sale 12/4/2001

We don't have any concerns about the tracts in the Southern Land Office. None of them are in CRP.

You may have already heard from Darrell Kurk about these, but I wanted to reply in case he didn't. If you have any questions, please let me know.

APPENDIX D: Public Comments Received Before Deadline

NOTE: For this December 4, 2001 Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale, MT-DNRC received 394 public comments regarding Rocky Mountain Front tracts in Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties by the Oct. 26, 2001 public comment deadline. These included: 35 letters, 3 e-mail letters, 3 postcards, 1 telephone message and 352 form postcards. Fifty-one form postcards included additional comments ranging from: thanks for the opportunity to comment; recommending acquiring oil and gas from Alaska or Azerbaijan to Uzbekistan; agreeing with the content of the postcard; advocating protection of the Front to leaving it alone; political statements; concerns about cleanup cost for taxpayers; to, no drilling on the Rocky Mountain Front. Some commentors sent both letters and form postcards. One e-mail letter and one form postcard with comments supported oil and gas leasing and development on the Rocky Mountain Front. Fifteen comments opposed leasing of state land on the Rocky Mountain Front. Eleven comments opposed oil and gas development on the Rocky Mountain Front. Four responders brought up questions that would be covered during site-specific review of proposed activity. Two comments requested utilization of the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation. Two comments requested careful analysis of impacts. Three hundred fifty-eight comments advocated protection of the Rocky Mountain Front. One comment provided information on former experience with Rocky Mountain Front land management.

Form postcards with additional comments are included in the copies of this environmental assessment. The remainder will be kept in the EA file for the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

The MT-DNRC proposes to apply the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19 in the application list in Appendix A) to application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County. This stipulation was utilized on application numbers 5072-5074, 5078, 5085, and 5094-5099 in Lewis and Clark County when they were previously leased in June 1999 and on application numbers 5050, 5075-5077, 5079-5084, and 5100-5102 when previously leased in June 2000. This proposal is due to the location of these school trust lands in northwestern Lewis and Clark County and western Teton County, i.e. (the lower elevation eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain Front, generally west of Choteau and Augusta) and proximity to areas with concerns including wildlife, water quality, and vegetation.

Pursuant to the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation, "No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board." After completion of an environmental review, the Land Board may approve, modify, or deny surface activity on the lease.

Use of the Rocky Mountain Front stipulation by the Land Board results in a lease agreement that expressly precludes any utilization of the surface by the lessee, unless the lessee can formulate an operating and reclamation plan that meets the Land Board's approval as constituting the best use of trust resources or the best interest of the State of Montana. The stipulation also recognizes and requires that any surface utilization of the lease lands would have to adhere to applicable resource guidelines prepared by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The stipulation also expressly incorporates a requirement that the environmental impact statement include impact analysis on an ecosystem scale. Therefore, the broad socioeconomic and natural resource concerns expressed by some commentors relative to the overall impacts from surface use of state lands for exploration or development will be addressed if/when a proposal for use is submitted by the lessee. It is important to note that, unlike the large blocks of Federal ownership along the Rocky Mountain Front, a decision by the Land Board on whether to allow school trust lands to be utilized for exploration or development does not determine whether such activity will occur. The state school trust parcels are scattered along the eastern transition area east of the Front, within an area of significant private mineral ownership. The Land Board does not have authority over private land interests.

Larry Middagh
1231 University
Helena, MT 59601

Monte Mason
DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2001
D.N.R.C.

Dear Monte:

I read with dismay in today's *Independent Record* that state trust lands along the Rocky Mountain Front are due to be leased out for oil and gas exploration. I would like to take just a moment of your time to ask that you please do whatever you can to prevent this from happening.

The Rocky Mountain Front is one of the most fragile and important ecosystems in the lower forty-eight. Its beauty and importance as a habitat corridor have lead to its being referred to by many as an American Serengeti. The Front is the only place in the lower forty-eight, for example, where grizzly bears still venture out onto the plains. There are very few unspoiled places like this left in the world. It is a very special place.

The rivers flowing out of the Front are some of the most beautiful waters in Montana, a delight to hike along. The first hikes our children ever took were along these mountain streams and we return to them every year to get our personal batteries recharged. This is truly God's country. Please leave it be. It would be a mistake to place the state of Montana in a situation where it is in any way party to degradation of this rare and pristine ecosystem.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Larry Middagh

Mason, Monte

From: PDMJMM@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2001 9:16 AM

To: mmason@state.mt.us

Subject: hello and a "atta-going"

Just wanted to tell you that I support the sale of permits for oil exploration on State owned lands. Thanks for doing the sensible thing.

Phyllis Marshik

October 16, 2001

DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
1625 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-1601
ATTN: Monte Mason

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2001

D.N.R.C.

Subject: Front Range Oil & Gas Leasing

Dear Mr. Mason:

I strongly oppose any oil & gas leasing along the Front Range. Folks don't want to see that area developed with oil & gas infrastructure. The entire area is too valuable for recreation & wildlife. Montana should take the same stand the Forest Service took & preserve the area. Oil & gas production is not compatible with traditional uses in the area.

Sincerely,



Dan Deutsch
1260 Angus Road
Helena, MT 59602

cc: Mike McGrath

October 18, 2001

DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
1625 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-1601
ATTN: Monte Mason

Subject: Front Range Oil & Gas Leasing

Dear Mr. Mason:

I very strongly oppose any oil & gas leasing along the Front Range. That area is far too valuable to local folks for recreation. Most of the area is also critical wildlife habitat. Oil & gas leasing is not compatible with traditional uses in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna Deutsch".

Donna Deutsch
1260 Angus Road
Helena, MT 59602

cc: Mike McGrath

Mason, Monte

From: Clinch, Bud
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2001 7:56 AM
To: Mason, Monte
Subject: FW: Oil and gas leases on state lands east of the Rocky Mtn Front

-----Original Message-----

From: Gene Sentz [mailto:friends@3rivers.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 02, 1973 5:08 PM
To: Clinch, Bud
Subject: Oil and gas leases on state lands east of the Rocky Mtn Front

Dear DNRC:

Please accept these comments on your proposal to lease state lands for oil and gas speculation in Lewis & Clark, Teton, and Pondera Counties west of Highways 89 and 287 and east of the Rocky Mountain Front.

We strongly urge you to abide by the Rocky Mountain Front guidelines, which imply that the strictest possible stipulations on development of public lands along the Front should be implemented. We urge that these leases be issued with No Surface Occupancy stipulations for all of these sensitive state lands east of the Rocky Mountain Front.

We further urge that you work with the State Land Board to establish a process for dealing with future proposed leasing and development, which gives special attention to these special state lands along the fabulous Rocky Mountain Front.

Thank you.

Gene Sentz
FRIENDS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT
PO Box 763
Choteau, Montana 59422
406-466-2750

cc: State Land Board

WE HAVE SOME OUT OF STATE
OUTFITTERS WORKING IN MONT - WHY

THE GREENIES HAVE HAD THEIR DAY -

Dear Mr. Mason, & MONT. IS AT BOTTOM OF ECON. LADDER.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. LET'S DRILL - MONT NEEDS THESE KIND OF JOBS.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

HOW BOUT MY HABITAT?

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

Wow.

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

LET'S QUIT BEING SO DEPENDENT ON

FOREIGN COUNTRIES. MONT. NEEDS SOME GOOD

PAYING JOBS - OIL & GAS JOBS PAY WELL -

BETTER THAN OUTFITTER SEASONAL WORK

WE HAVE PLENTY OF MEASURES

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

W. Carlsberg

W. Heymann
1618 E Lyndale Ave
WWF Helena, MT 59601-3041

DO WE HAVE TO DRILL
ON EVERY LAST/ACRES OF
UNDEVELOPED LAND??

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and
Uzbekistan together have 15 billion barrels of
proven oil reserves. Why not get it from there?
(Thank you for the info.)

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

Look what will go to the
to the Denardian
Rocky Mountain
Front.
Beverly Fox
1423 Stuart
Helena MT 59601

Dear Mr. Mason,

This is a dangerous proposal!
I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Beverly Fox
1423 Stuart
Helena MT 59601

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Anthony Tweedale
Anthony Tweedale
224 E Pine St Apt 2
Missoula, MT 59802-4541

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat? *And it will!*

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

Care for our water supplies is paramount.
The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

Virginia Vincent
907 Kern St.
Missoula MT 59801

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*The people who live
this area do not
+ work there at all.*
Sandharva Daner
133 Edith
Mtg, Mt. 59801

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

*PLEASE I truly
don't feel this
is the right place*
Kathleen R. Kimb
P.O. # 9041
Mtna, MT 59807

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

P.S. Once we have lost Kathleen & Clarence Clark
that we can never 906 Charles St.
return them to what they Missoula, MT 59802
were. Let's learn to be more conservative in our actions. Save

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development. Wade - yes! Conservation!

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Sincerely,

Bob Sehl
1823 Grandway
Helena, MT 59609

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development. My best friend is Summit from DE!
The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development affect their critical habitat?

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Sincerely,

James H. Maddock
PO Box 1386
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Wade & his 3000 lbs of
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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

Don't bring a big development now!
Follow the
506 W. Austin
Missoula, MT 59803

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. ~~Montana~~ Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power ~~rather than focusing on fossil fuel development.~~ ^{and} fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves, and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat? ^{we know}

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

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Sincerely,

Luci Bragan
2303 Cliff View Camp Rd
Butte, MT 59705

Dear Mr. Mason, Please leave these lands as they are.
I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

We are already
Exposing Energy
to the Rocky Mountain
Front
2303 Cliff View Camp Rd
Butte, MT 59705

Dear Mr. Mason, I do not support oil/gas exploration along the Rocky Mountain Front.
I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today. I definitely agree that steps need to be taken to protect our wilderness.
Sincerely,

Lyn Benedict



Ms. Lyn Benedict
239 Meadow View Dr
Butte, MT 59701-7526

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Hands off the front.
Seay + Janet Mc Gahan

RECEIVED

OCT 23 2001

D.N.R.C.

10-20-2001

Dear Monte,

I get a kick out of dates like this. Wouldn't it be great if in

10-20-2100 or 12-01-2210
we still had roadless wild healthy
areas of Montana?

I urge, implore, beg and
encourage you to deny the proposed oil
and gas leases on our public lands
along the Rocky Mountain Front.

If we drill, it will never
be pristine again. It will affect
our wild things + the future of
our dear planet. We can save
more energy than we can mine

Lovers of the Rocky Mtn Front as it is!
Ann W. Dorrell

625 Continental
Missoula, MT. 59803

Oct. 21, 2001

Monte Mason, DNRC

Greetings -

There seems to be a Pending Proposal to lease State lands on the Rocky Mountain Front for oil and gas exploration. While this proposal is under consideration you will of course conduct an Environmental Analysis. Such an analysis should take into account the true long-range economic benefit to Montana of the lands in question if they are kept in their present condition.

As you know, we (i.e. State Government) act as though we have no children or grandchildren but must rush into the liquidation of the State's natural resources just to keep ourselves warm and comfortable for the next few years, while far-off stock-holders grow richer and richer.

You have a heavy responsibility to the future. Please live up to it!

Sincerely
Richard J. Faber

RECEIVED

OCT 23 2001

D.N.R.C.

RECEIVED

OCT 23 2001

3812 Hwy 93
October 22, 2001
Stametsville, MT.

D.N.R.C.

Regarding the Rocky Mountain Front.

Dear Mr. Mason,

As a Montana native I am concerned for the protection of the Rocky Mountain beautiful & pristine scenic wilderness. Along with your duty to generate income from public lands I urge you to consider carefully the constitutional requirements to protect Montana's natural environment. Oil and gas developments have a very poor record regarding pollution & degradation of the streams, land & air where they have been granted access.

We urge development of alternative energy sources, solar & wind, to lessen the impact of burning fossil fuels on Montana's environment and ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Harve O'Hill
Stametsville, MT

I am very concerned about oil and gas leases proposed on the Rocky Mountain Front. This area has been recognized as crucial for wildlife for many, many decades - that's why there are several refuges there. Please make sure these impacts are carefully considered: noxious weed spread, possible accidents including releases of petroleum and toxic gases, disturbance from roadbuilding and traffic, impacts to wildlife, habitat, global climate change, ground water, surface water, hunting, and recreation.

I go to the Rocky Mountain Front to enjoy the stunning beauty, fresh air, and undisturbed space. It is one of the rare places where it is easy to take a photo with no power lines in it. Do not degrade it.

Sincerely,
D.L. Blank

D. L. BLANK
P. O. BOX 953
WHITEFISH, MT 59937

DEAR MR. MASON,

I AM WRITING
IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED OIL
AND GAS LEASES ON STATE
LANDS ALONG THE ROCKY
MTN FRONT.

MY FAMILY PLACES HIGH IMPORTANCE ON PRESERVING THE PRISTINE CHARACTER OF THE FRONT, AS IT IS AN AREA WE VALUE FOR ITS NATURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES.

WE URGE YOU TO PROTECT

THIS UNIQUE PLACE.

Whooler
Highland St
Helena, MT 59601-4617

guy



MONTY MASON
DNRC
PO Box 201601

NOT
Supreme
Court

HELENA MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.N.R.C.

4Q-16-R8PG
Printed on recycled paper

Dear Mr. Mason,

10/23/01

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development. AND AS A BUILOCA, THE STATE SHOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL NEW CONSTRUCTION BE BUILT TO SUPPLY

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,
William B. McCartney III

Developing the front area parts
a few out of state corporations
at our expense. The National
Forest Service is in a tough
this will be useless. The conclusion
SAVE THE FRONT AS IS.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,
Montana's environmental

stability is at least as
important as stability---
the latter is ultimately dependent
on the former.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

Obviously I did not
approve the above
but I DO SUPPORT
THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUE

Phyllis McLagan
4815 Hwy 12 West
Helena MT 59601

Dear Mr. Mason,
10/01

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

My husband & I own 2,000 acres along
the Libby River near the Front & will not
complete a conservation easement for that much
in 2002 with the AT and please note all
need to protect The Front!

Clarie Wilson



Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Darryl Geist
Darryl Geist
PO Box 7941
Missoula, MT 59811

Dear Mr. Mason

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Kathy Lloyd Drake Barton
314 Travis Creek Rd
Clancy, MT 59634

Dear Mr. Mason,

Montanans have already said NO to gas & oil on the Front.

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

To: Monte Mason
DNRC

10/22/01

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.N.R.C.

I am writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leasing on State lands along the Rocky Mtn. Front Range.

I am very much opposed to opening this area to the prospect of oil or gas exploration and/or development.

This is just not the proper place for mineral extraction.

The Front Range has received the highest marks possible for wilderness & scenic values in past roadless evaluations, and it provides PRIME habitat for many wildlife species.

The BLM estimates the natural gas available in the Blackleaf Unit on the Front at between 110 and 284 ~~billion~~ billion cubic ft — barely enough to supply the U.S. demand for 2 to 5 DAYS. The massive impact required to develop any of these sites for the very nominal return is a poor trade-off.

I think Montana — and the US — should instead be focusing on a sustainable energy future; conservation coupled with aggressive development of renewable, readily-available energy such as wind and solar power.

The Rocky Mtn. Front is such a unique part of Montana — let's allow it to stay pristine as it is today.

Sincerely —

Becky A. Hardey

PO Box 2501 / Columbia Falls MT. 59912

October 22, 2001

RECEIVED
OCT 24 2001
D.N.R.C.

Mr. Monte Mason
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason,

Our comments are relative to the proposal to lease state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front for oil and gas exploration.

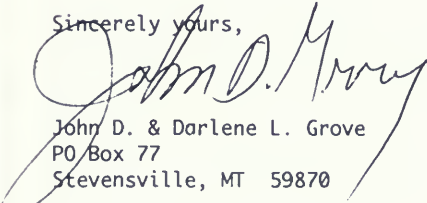
We are grateful that there is still some kind of Montana Environmental Policy Act that requires an environmental assessment. The people of Montana deserve to have ample opportunity to comment on any actions taken on public land.

Our concerns are:

1. That the State of Montana and the Nation does not have a viable energy policy that addresses renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power. Those should be considered before we start depleting any other sources of energy.
2. The Front is one of the last places where large tracts of land are available to wildlife. There was a great need for the Blackleaf Game Range and Pine Butte Swamp. It would indeed be sad to allow exploration in these areas without an in depth study of the effects on all wildlife, not only those that are endangered.
3. The rivers and streams along the front have been badly damaged by overgrazing, flooding and illegal ORV use. What protections would be implemented to protect the watershed from additional abuse from exploratory equipment. Also any new roads in the area also will invite more illegal ORV use.

In summary, we do not support invading state lands along the Front to exploit the oil and gas reserves before we develop a state wide energy policy, with some consideration for wind and solar energy.

Sincerely yours,


John D. & Darlene L. Grove
PO Box 77
Stevensville, MT 59870



October 22, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED
OCT 24 2001
D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason,

We are writing because we are concerned about proposed oil and gas leases on state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. The Front is one of our favorite places and we believe that its value as a natural treasure far exceeds any profit from oil and/or gas drilling.

The Front is unique and is home to grizzlies, wolves, and bald eagles. It also supports native plant communities and ecosystems that are rapidly disappearing. Although the Land Board is supposed to generate income from state lands, they should also consider the long-term value of maintaining Montana's natural heritage.

Montana should be developing renewable energy resources like wind and solar, and can begin now to move toward technologies like fuel cells. The days of an economy based on non-renewable fossil fuels is coming to an end. Let's not rush to end Montana's glorious landscape as well!

Thanks.

Kathy Lloyd

Drake Barton

Kathy Lloyd and Drake Barton
314 Travis Creek Rd.
Clancy, MT 59634

October 22, 2001

OCT 24 2001

D.N.R.C.

Mr. Monte Mason
DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena Mt.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am concerned about the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. Our state and the nation should emphasizing renewable energy sources and conservation rather than drilling for more oil that our large SUVs drink dry and put us in the same position that we find ourselves in presently. This short sighted philosophy of constantly satisfying our insatiable thirst for more oil will eventually catch up with us. We use 25% of the world's fossil fuels and we are morally obligated to be the leaders of new sustainable energy sources.

The Front is a rich, diverse habitat to a large number of wildlife as well as clean rivers and streams which provide recreation opportunities for anglers and local outfitters. The destruction of this pristine area would be a major blow to our wonderful and beautiful state which proudly exults the phrase "the last best place". Let's make discreet, careful decisions that keep this jewel shining.

Sincerely,

Roger Sherman
Columbia Falls Mt.

255 Boon Road
Somers, MT 59932

October 23, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.N.R.C.

Proposed Oil and Gas Leases
State Land along Rocky Mountain Front

Monte Mason
DNRC
P O Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason:

Today I submitted to you the "canned" comments from MEIC which I found to be eminently appropriate.

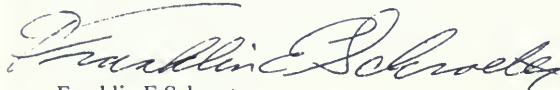
I looked at the state map on your website (lease locations and schedule) and although it would have been nice to have something on a larger scale, it is sufficiently detailed to cause one some shock and dismay over some of the proposed locations. I squinted at Areas 6, 7, 8, 16, & 17 and noticed that portions of those fall exactly on the area denoted on the Montana 2001-2002 Highway Map as the , surprise!!!, "Rocky Mountain Front"

There is NO amount of oil or gas in the Front portions of Teton, Pondera, or Lewis & Clark Counties that could justify leasing, much less development. I don't care if the ultimate production would make Montana into another welfare state a la Alaska with its yearly dole per person. Why not follow the sensible federal approach in this area and stay out of the mineral business along those environmentally sensitive front range areas?!?

If you have to get some income from state-owned properties, why not concentrate in those areas that are not so pristine. Also, within some of your lifetimes, there will probably be energy breakthroughs (e.g. fuel cells) that will dramatically reduced the developed world's dependency on fossile fuels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours very truly,



Franklin E Schroeter



MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 12, 2001

Monte Mason
Oil & Gas Lease Sale Comments
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
1625 11th Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on state lands located along the Rocky Mountain Front. The following is a list of concerns MEIC thinks should be addressed in the initial environmental review of these leases. Please accept the following comments into the official register:

Cultural and Historical Resources

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect nearby historical sites such as Lewis and Clark Pass?

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect tourists who travel to Lewis and Clark Pass during the anniversary of their passage?

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect the tourists who travel to the Rocky Mountain Front during the anniversary of their passage?

What kind of physical impact will the oil and gas exploration and development have on the historical Old North Trail that runs along the Rocky Mountain Front?

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect the nearby Indian Burial Grounds?

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect nearby Indian Reservations and traditional spiritual sites like Bear Mountain and Heart Butte?

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect Indian cultural sites such as the Old North Trail?

Has a survey been done for sites eligible for listing under the National Register of Historical Places and the State Historical Preservation Administration?

Who will identify specific sites in which oil and gas exploration and development may be incompatible with existing cultural values?

Will protection of historical sites be protected from vandalism due to increased access to these sites?

Soils

How will the oil and gas lease sites be accessed?

How many miles of roads will be built to access these lease sites?

Main Office: P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624, Telephone (406) 443-2520, Fax (406) 443-2507

114 W. Pine, Missoula, MT 59802, Telephone (406) 721-3589



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MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

What type of surface material will be used on road construction to the lease site?
What kind of road reclamation will occur once the well site is no longer in production?
What kind of soil loss will occur during development?
What kind of precaution will take place to prevent soil loss during wet, soft soil conditions?
What kind of preventive measures will be taken to prevent soil erosion into nearby rivers and streams?
Will there be reclamation of oil and gas well sites once the wells stop producing?
Who will be responsible for site reclamation?

Water Quality

How will the oil and gas exploration and development affect groundwater sources?
What kind of monitoring of nearby wells will be conducted?
What kind of monitoring of nearby natural springs will be conducted?
What pollution control measures will be installed to prevent oil and gas spills into nearby rivers and streams?
What kind of pollution control measures will be installed to prevent oil and gas spills from contaminating ground water?
What kind of treatment chemicals will be used in water sources after a spill occurs?

Geology

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect the geology of the lease site?

Solid and Hazardous Waste

What type of solid waste will be produced during oil and gas exploration and development?
How will this solid waste be disposed?
What kind of hazardous waste will be produced during oil and gas exploration and development?
What precautions will take place during oil and gas exploration and development to prevent any spills of solid or hazardous waste?
How will this hazardous waste be disposed?
How will solid and hazardous waste affect the local communities?

Air Quality

What kind of reduction in air quality due to dust and emissions will occur during oil and gas exploration and development?
What kind of visual reduction along the Rocky Mountain Front will occur due to oil and gas exploration and development?
Will there be the creation or release of harmful gases during oil and gas exploration and development?

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How will these emissions effect global warming?

Wildlife and Waterfowl

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect wildlife habitat availability?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect fragmentation of wildlife habitat?

What kind of impact will increased human activity have on wildlife migration patterns?

Will the increase in oil and gas exploration and development create a loss of wildlife?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect the food source of wildlife?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on endangered species located in the Rocky Mountain Front?

What kind of physical impacts will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in the Rocky Mountain Front?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on the nearby Rocky Mountain Front Eagle Migration Area?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in the Willow Creek Reservoir Wildlife Management Area?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in Spring Creek Bird Preserve?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in the Pine Butte Swamp Preserve?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in the Ear Mountain Wildlife Management Area?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on wildlife located in the Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area?

Social and Economic Values

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect the economies of Augusta, Choteau, Bynum, Pendroy and Dupuyer?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect tourist businesses who cater to clients wanting to visit the Rocky Mountain Front?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect outfitters operating along the Rocky Mountain Front?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect hunters along the Rocky Mountain Front?

Will oil and gas exploration and development affect local businesses who rely on hunters to generate income?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on the value of land adjoining the site?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect real estate prices in the area?

How will oil and gas exploration and development affect agriculture in the area?

Main Office: P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624, Telephone (406) 443-2520, Fax (406) 443-2507

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What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on livestock and grazing?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on recreation?

Will there be impact on trail access located along the Rocky Mountain Front?

What kind of visual impact will oil and gas exploration and development have esthetically on the Rocky Mountain Front?

What kind of impact will oil and gas exploration and development have on the Rocky Mountain Front Outstanding Natural Resource Areas?

Further, we believe this may be just the first step toward full-scale development of oil and gas resources on the Rocky Mountain Front. You cannot separate oil and gas exploration from full scale development. Exploration is just the initial step towards development.

Before we open that door, MEIC feels strongly that the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation should examine producing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for development on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Sincerely,



Brad Borst

Issue Specialist /Organizer

Montana Environmental Information Center

P.O. Box 1184

Helena, MT 59601



RECEIVED
OCT 25 2001
D.N.R.C.

October 22, 2001

Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Monte Mason:

This will register our concern regarding increasing pressures for oil and gas exploration and extraction on State Lands in the Rocky Mountain Front.

Responsible national officials who are concerned with the long-term value of the Rocky Mountain Front have determined that the value of this pristine area is greater left in its present state as one of the last best areas for wildlife habitat, wilderness experience, recreation, and outfitter use rather than jeopardizing it with short-term resource extraction. We agree.

There are so few places of this quality left, that our generation has perhaps the last opportunity to save them for ourselves and for generations to come.

Oil and gas from this region will not mitigate in any major way our long-term energy needs, and the income to the state from exploitation will be transitory. But the Front itself is permanent, and the values it represents are permanent and will have both economic and subjective returns over the long-term that will greatly outweigh its short-term exploitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Staffanson".

Robert Staffanson
P.O. Box 1388
Bozeman, MT 59771-1388

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

24 October 2001

Monte Mason, DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason,

I am writing to express
my concern and opposition
to any planned oil or gas
exploration along the Front.

I believe there is a Constitutional
Requirement to protect Montana's
natural environment. That
beautiful country is unique
in the U.S., so wild, vast
& unspoiled.

We should invest in
renewable energies, wind,
solar technologies, fuel cells,
& conservation.

We are concerned about disruption
to the wildlife, especially grizzlies
& elk. Let's clean up the messes
in northern Montana first
before we give permission to make
more. Sincerely, J. Miller

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mrs. Mason,

No drilling on the Front,
please. We need to develop
wind and solar power
first. God knows we have
plenty of wind here.

Thanks,

Kris Dobyns
Oilfield Ave.
Shelby MI 49474

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on Sate lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. I understand that approximately 17,000 acres are being considered for oil and gas exploration. I believe the Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

As a wildlife biologist, I value the Front as home to many wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. Oil and gas development will effect their critical habitat. Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for angles, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place". I urge DNRC to make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,


John F. Caratti

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Helena MT
Oct. 23, 01

Monte Mason, DNRC
Box 201601
Helena MT

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing you concerning the proposal to explore for oil and gas along the Rocky Mountain Front. We both know that our commitment to end Terrorism is being used to drive a search for oil supplies within our own borders and so they have come to us.

Our nation does need to get free of our dependence on foreign oil but not at the expense of the ecological values we have chosen to reserve as a

legacy to those who come after us — land reserved for species that need a specific habitat in uninterrupted quantities beyond the hum of development.

It seems that so many of our problems are tied to oil. Let's refuse to surrender this place — almost 17000 acres — and look for creative solutions. Let's spend our time and treasure in finding renewable energy supplies. A nickel-a-gallon on gasoline would provide a start on funding.

Until we have the courage to say "No," the pressure will continue to despoil native plant communities, fisheries and game security for the sake of cheap gasoline.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Pat Helvey

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

P.O. Box 584
Sheridan, MT 59749

October 23, 2001

Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason:

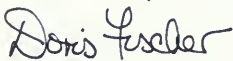
We oppose the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Front provides critical habitat for diverse fish and wildlife species. It is a splendid, pristine place that ought not be sacrificed for the sake of making money off of fossil fuel development.

The State Land Board must remember its obligation is to generate income for our schools, while protecting our natural environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Doris Fischer



Richard Gotshalk

POB 1782

Whitefish, MT 59937
October 23, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason

DNR

POB 201601

Helena, MT 59620

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason:

Last June I traveled the Rocky Mountain Front and found it a unique place with 73 species of birds, many nesting. The habitat for these species and other wild-life needs to be protected in this exceptionally beautiful area.

I live in a resource efficient house, super - good sense plus. It is well insulated with E-windows, and concrete siding. It requires very little energy for with any sunshine our sunspace heats up. Montana needs a sun - sustainable energy future, employing conservation systems such as we enjoy. These systems also save money and do not require fossil fuel development, which could destroy our environment.

I ask that the Front be protected and resource efficient conservation be promoted rather than oil and gas leases.

Sincerely,
Gene Cohen

933 South Washington St.
Dillon, MT 59725
October 22, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason,

I am writing regarding the proposed gas and oil leases along the Rocky Mt. Front. Please include my comments in your consideration as to whether these leases will be allowed on state lands in that area.

The Rocky Mountain Front has been valuable for years as critical habitat for fish, wolves, birds, and bears. I think it is critical to keep this area unsullied at this particular time. Allowing gas and oil leases to go forward would likely devastate the land as well as pollute the streams. Exploration means roads. Roads bring run-off, noxious weeds and noise pollution. Studies in Idaho are finding that noise pollution adversely affects the health and reproductive capabilities of wild critters.

Please do NOT allow the leases on public lands to go forward. Instead please find viable means to encourage conservation of gas and oil among public. We will need to bite that bullet eventually anyway; why not now? Wind power is currently being developed on the Blackfeet Reservation. Please look to other areas that can produce power from wind and other renewable energy sources that can sustain our power uses for a long time to come. Fossil fuel development on the Front is limited at best, and short-sighted at worst.

Please look at this issue with your long-term glasses on and vote NO to oil and gas development on the public lands of the Front.

Sincerely,
Ann Haggett
933 So. Washington
Dillon, MT 59725



RECEIVED 10.23.01

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason,

This relates to the proposed oil & gas leases on state land on the Front. Because wildlife and the environment could potentially be impacted by these leases, we hope that you carefully consider alternatives to our energy needs. This is Montana's last best place, so please leave it untouched.

Sincerely

Randy Kenyon

403 7th Ave W

Kalispell, MT 59901

Monte Mason
DNRC

from: Chris Riley (406) 682-3294
Ennis, MT 59729

Dear Mr. Mason,

RECEIVED

23 October 2001

OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

I'm writing you regarding the DNRC's ^{17,000 acres of} proposal for oil and gas leases on ¹ State lands along the Rocky Mtn. Front.

I am concerned about a number of issues:

- 1) Impacts from the proposed action upon native flora and fauna. In particular I am concerned for species either federally or state identified for special status (i.e., threatened or endangered. Any mitigation?
- 2) I am concerned about impacts to air and water quality. I believe we have enough of these already. How will they be mitigated?
- 3) I am concerned about introduction of non-native species how will this process be mitigated to protect our precious state heritage?
- 4) I am concerned about road construction, how will or will not roads be closed and/or maintained? what are the impacts of new roads upon wildlife, aquatic biota, and the process of exotic plant invasion?
- 5) What or how are those who lease such resources as gas and oil required to pay for the leases? Is such costs economical to the State treasury? (i.e. how heavily are these leases subsidized?
- 6) Is there a state "energy plan" that provides a strategy for energy development/production from all sources?

Sincerely, CW.R.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*Best is thing that I want to see is
advantage to open it! Samuel Jackson
not a parko-ate!*

Dear Mr. Mason,

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The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

*The Front and it's several riparian areas are the richest and
Sincerely, most diverse wildlife habitats in the state. COLEBY.*

Brent Mitchell



Brent Mitchell
960 Kinas Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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*generation is not entitled to not having
Sincerely, everything, having nothing in the future
and the future. Jan 24 1991 Jan 24 1991
I will not be
we about.*

MISSOULA MT 59801

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

for a clean the money value for everyone

Sincerely, Shirley & Joe Randall

477 28 Park

Helena MT 59601

I am a former resident of Helena, MT. I am the heart of the Rocky Mountain Front.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*We live in a solar home
at 1827 N. 1st St.
Helena, MT 59601*

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*As a native Montanan,
I feel strongly about
conservation efforts*

*Margie Cook
536 Third Ave. East
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-755-0887*

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*How many times do we now follow the lead
of the grizzlies and wolves?
Robert, MT 59041*

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today. *It's too beautiful,
too fragile, and too sacred to locals to be put at risk.*

Sincerely,

*Please help preserve
the Front!*

*Larry Capenbauer
280 Southridge Dr
Helena, MT 59601*

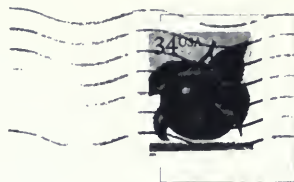
Sunrise over the Skeena River, British Columbia, Canada.

RE: proposed oil/gas leases
on state lands along the
Rocky Mt. Front.

Impacts that need to be
considered —

1. Sustainable upland
bird populations. Hunting
fees can generate income
from state lands.
 2. Soil, water, air conser-
vation. NO income without
them.
 3. The soul of the place —
no income, all future.
- Steven Zwislere
Box 1029
Whitefish, MT 59937

The Sierra Club MOUNTAIN LIGHT Postcard Collection.
Copyright © 1986 by Galen Rowell/Mountain Light, Inc.



Monte Mason
DNRC

P.O. Box 201601

Helena

RECEIVED

MT. 59620-1601
OCT 25 2001

D.N.R.C.

Diana S. Talcott
2004 1st Ave. So.
Great Falls, MT 59401

3 coffee beans, 100g

Stir and strain. Garnish with coffee beans

10/23/01

Dear Mr. Mason, As you under-
take an environmental analysis
of State lands along the Rocky Mountain
Front, I urge you to consider our
constitutional mandate to protect our
natural environment. Please emphasize
renewable energy sources such as
wind and solar power, before endorsing
fossil fuel development which will
negatively affect wildlife, water
quality and the soulful beauty of
this area. Thank you for your
consideration in the vital decision
you are making.

Sincerely,
Diana S. Talcott

The Mountain, A Postcard Book
©1998 by Running Press Book Publishers
Printed in the USA

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason
DNRC

P.O. Box 201601

Helena, MT 59620-1601



Sincerely,
Bob Oset
394 West Howe Rd
Hamilton, MI
49840

Sincerely,
\$1000000
\$5000000
\$2500000
\$1250000
\$625000
\$312500
\$156250
\$78125
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Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

*This letter appears to be from R. L. Spaulding
my daughter, very lovely & intelligent. I
well, please support Billings, MT 59102*

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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*Sincerely,
The letter to the Front to oil
protection is a precious
as the state has had in con-
do not compromise the
Steve Hendricks + Jim Fort
717 St. Ave
Helena MT 59601*

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

*I have spent much time
time there. I would like
gas rigs, I wouldn't.*
David L. Spaulding
Box 2031
Whitefish, MT 59937

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today. *Pristine & untouched will, in the long run, generate more money than short-sighted*
Sincerely, *exploitation!*

*J DeSanto
Box 9, Coram, MT 59913*
Parent-Teacher, Karen Feather



Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Robert Sand Dekin

MIKE BUTTE, KENDALL, AND
LAWDUSKY, IN THE 17TH PAGES
WILL AGAIN CLEAN UP THE
CASCADIAN EXTENSION MESS.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Lorne Labuff

There's plenty of
wind in Eastern
Montana
1411 Stoddard #3
Missoula MT 59802

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely, *Smaller Cars, Less Miles, Travelled & more oil*

FROM ALASKA - could save the Rocky Mt. Front
Don't interfere with the
choice of MT

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. Why sacrifice this Renowned Area For a few measely school dollars??

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Harry McNeal, Biologist Ret.
27655 Frontage Road
Bozeman, MT 59718



Montana Wilderness Association

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 25, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Re: December 2001 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Dear Mr. Mason:

Please accept the following comments regarding the oil and gas lease applications prepared for the December 4, 2001 oil and gas lease sale. We ask that the conservation lease stipulations adopted by the Montana Land Board January 19, 1999, be applied to all leases within the Bob Marshall ecosystem.

The Stipulations require the DNRC to fully assess the potential environmental impact of oil and gas development, provide the public with meaningful opportunities to comment, and allow the Land Board the authority to deny surface activity. It is our understanding that the conservation stipulations, adopted in 1999, have been applied to all leases within the Bob Marshall ecosystem. We ask that as a matter of policy, the conservation stipulations continue to be applied to all state owned mineral leases within the Bob Marshall ecosystem.

The Bob Marshall ecosystem can be defined using the "Limits of Acceptable Change Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex," adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in December, 1991. However, the document needs to be updated to more accurately define the Bob Marshall ecosystem for future lease proposals. Since 1991, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) has gathered considerable data on grizzly bear distribution. Since the grizzly is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act, We would suggest that you ask MDFWP to update the LAC boundary with the grizzly bear's documented habitat use and current distribution.

Similarly, since more wildlife information has been gathered on a variety of species, an update is also needed for the Interagency Rocky Mountain Front, Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program, Management Guidelines for Selected Species.

The stipulations adopted by the Land Board recognize the state's work in restoring and protecting wildlife in the Bob Marshall ecosystem and provide greater assurance to the public that these lands will continue to be protected. A common policy is needed among land management agencies to respect and protect areas with outstanding values, like the Bob Marshall ecosystem.

Central Field Office

1100 First Avenue North, #36 Great Falls, Montana 59401

t: 406-753-9434 f: 406-753-9434 e: mwacent@wildmontana.org

www.wildmontana.org

We also urge the DNRC to revisit the process of notifying the public about oil and gas leasing. The DNRC has a responsibility to inform the public when when oil and gas leasing is proposed in areas with outstanding natural, historic and wildlife features. The current practice of sending out lists of legal descriptions of proposed leases covering the entire state and then expecting the public to determine which leases might be located in environmentally sensitive areas is difficult and discourages public oversight. It has the effect of placing the interests of those who use public resources for private profit above those for whom these lands are held in trust. A simple solution is for the DNRC to notify major newspapers in the state when leases are proposed in environmentally sensitive areas such as state parks, wildlife management areas, national refuges, national monuments, Forest Service and BLM roadless areas, and wilderness study areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. If you have questions about our comments, please contact the MWA Island Range Chapter office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerry Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Gerry Jennings
MWA Island Range Chapter President

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

10-24-01

Dear Mr. Mason,

D.N.R.C.

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. I would like you to consider protecting this vast wilderness area from fossil fuel development. Not only ^{is} this area rich in wild species, but it provides a natural resource for Americans who enjoy fishing, wilderness travel, and generally appreciate the value of scenic, pristine land. I understand that we must tap new energy sources on a global level, but I urge you to focus on renewable sources, such as wind and solar power. On the plains east of the front, it seems that this would be a realistic alternative. I believe that Montana residents want their forests to remain as is. I believe that the state government should do what it can to preserve the integrity of Montana wildlands. Furthermore, we owe it to the dwindling wildlife and ecosystems to protect what remains to be pure and untouched.

Sincerely,

Stephanie draper

PO Box 7753

Missoula, MT 59807

RECEIVED

24 Oct. 2001
OCT 26 2001

Dear Mr. Mason, D.N.R.C.

Proposed leasing of oil and gas on state lands is of questionable value when considering all the impacts to the natural environment of the Rocky Mountain Front. Short term receipts from fossil fuel development, do not compare favorably with long term benefits from healthy watersheds, clean water, big game animals, renewable power sources, and various recreation opportunities. The mining industry has a poor record in Montana, costing the citizens millions of dollars to repair the damages to the land itself, water, wildlife, scenic values. The Rocky Mtn. Front is a special area; let's leave as is for our grandchildren to decide how it should be managed. We have fouled up enough country; leaving a poor legacy.

Mr. Vern L. Thompson
5306 Whiteloud Dr.
Florence, MT 59605

Ken L. Thompson

Oct 23 2001

Monte Mason DNR

PO Box 201601 Helena 59620

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason -

I feel concern over harm to Montana's welfare by opening oil & gas leases on state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

Montana has now a great energy potential; it should focus on a sustainable energy future - not by getting limited & uncertain in even further change.

The Land Board must balance legislative & constitutional needs.

Please consider the future nature of the Front & leave it untouched. Thanks

Pat Bradley

Patricia Bradley
P.O. Box 272
Twin Bridges, MT 59754

Ellen Horowitz
880 Blackmer Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-752-2909

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 24, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

It is well known that these lands are critical wildlife habitat for a wide range of wildlife including grizzly bears and wolves. The scenic and recreational values from these lands and nearby rivers are important for outfitters who make their livelihood from these lands and those of us who go there to fish, hunt, hike and ride our horses.

It is time for Montana to focus on sustainable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development. I urge you to use your foresight to keep the Rocky Mountain Front untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen Horowitz", written in dark ink.

Ellen Horowitz

1219 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-3688

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 25, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason
Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing concerning oil and gas exploration on State Lands on the Rocky Mountain Front. I understand that DNRC is taking public comments as it begins an environmental analysis.

The Rocky Mountain front is one of the country's most beautiful and sensitive areas. It has the greatest assemblage and diversity of wildlife in the contiguous 48 states. The recreational and aesthetic value of this area is a major economic asset to Montana now and will be even more so in the future, as the rest of the nation, and the world, look to Montana for her wild lands and wildlife. Despoil the Rocky Mountain Front and Montana will lose many times more than any possible gain from oil and gas leases.

Stream pollution and wildlife disruption are major concerns. Large on-site industrial installations should be avoided. May we take a lesson from the Province of Alberta where recent oil and gas development created an environmental disaster, despoiling wild lands and polluting agricultural lands.

There is indeed need for a balance between the legal requirement that income be generated from State lands and the constitutional mandate that Montana's natural environment is protected. This is a great responsibility. Please proceed carefully so future generations will say the state of Montana managed these lands prudently.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,


George Holton

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Date: 10/26/01

Time: ☒ a.m. ☐ p.m.

File No. / Name: DEC 01 OIL & GAS LEASE SALE

Contact: WILL BRAND

Address: HELONA MT

Phone: _____

RESULTS OF CONVERSATION OR DISCUSSION:

WILL CALLED AND LEFT MESSAGE ON MONTE MARO'S PHONE.

Opposed to leasing the Front for oil & gas

- Like to see that land remain pristine
- No more beautiful place in the country
- Visits the front
- Do what you can, do what you should.

Include in comments for EA

FOLLOW-UP ACTION REQUIRED? Yes ☒ No ☐

DNRC Employee

mbm

Date

10/26/01

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

P.O. Box 25

East Glacier Park, MT 59434

October 24, 2001

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Monte Mason
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Madden:

I am writing you about concerns I have about the management of state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. I urge that the state not lease these lands for oil and gas development. While I realize that the State Land Board has an obligation to generate income from these lands, I also recognize that the Land Board also has a constitutional duty to protect our natural environment.

Montana and the U.S. in general should focus on energy conservation and alternative sources of energy instead of going into the last wild places to obtain the very last energy reserves. Such philosophy is short-sighted, and does nothing in the long run for energy independence.

The Rocky Mountain Front is home to a host of sensitive and threatened species and, as such, needs to be preserved. The recreational value of the lands on the front cannot be overstated. Oil and gas development is not compatible with these values. Therefore, again, I urge you to refrain from leasing these lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louis Bruno", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louis Bruno

HOYT & BLEWETT

ALEXANDER (ZANDER) BLEWETT, III
KURT M. JACKSON
JOSEPH P. COSGROVE
CHRISTOPHER D. MEYER
JOHN C. HOYT
1922-2001

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

501 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
POST OFFICE BOX 2807
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2807
(406) 761-1960
FAX (406) 761-7186
h&b@hoytandblewett.com

October 23, 2001

Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
State Land Board
1625 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

RECEIVED
OCT 26 2001
D.N.R.C.

Dear Commissioners:

I recently read in the Great Falls Tribune that the State Land Board was seeking public comment on the proposed sale of oil and gas exploration leases on 17,000 acres of public land along the Rocky Mountain Front. It is my understanding that the lease price is \$1.50 per acre, per year, with the money going into the school trust fund. I am absolutely opposed to any such lease arrangement. It seems like an extremely unwise decision to enter into these leases at this time for such a pittance which will provide virtually no support for the school trust fund. I personally value the Rocky Mountain Front at much more than \$1.50 per acre, per year, and I am adamantly opposed to any sale of oil and gas exploration leases on that specific 17,000 acres of public land.

I urge you not to enter into any such lease arrangement with any oil and gas producers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander (Zander) Blewett, III

AB:cg

William J. Cardin
2101 3rd Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401
October 24, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Mason:

I would like to express my concerns about the state-owned lands on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front. I understand that the Land Board is considering opening these lands to oil and gas leasing. I am opposed to such actions.

Our Rocky Mountain Front is priceless wildlife habitat for many game species and endangered species. Oil and gas development would degrade this habitat. Such development would be particularly damaging given Ex-Forest Supervisor Gloria Flora's decision to declare the Front off limits on National Forest lands. I urge you to follow her lead and ban oil and gas leasing on the Front.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Cardin".

William J. Cardin

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

Dear Mr. Mason, **D.N.R.C.**

Once again the Rocky Mountain Front, a spectacular natural area, is being targeted for oil and gas leases on State lands.

We must move ahead to solar and wind power and desist from archaic and harmful fossil fuel development.

Please reserve this great area for future Montanans; not only for wildlife values but for clean air and water.

Thank you,

Jean Jayshary
Newbatten

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

To Montie Mason — 10-24-01

I have lived most of my 41 yrs. here in Montana. I have lived in Dillon, Cut Bank, Gt. Falls, Dearborn & now in Helena. The family I grew up in & my family now of 20 yrs. have been avid camping, fishing, hunting, outdoors people. My husband was born & raised in Gt. Falls & his family goes back two generations in Gt. Falls. We are Montanans.

My husband & I spent 6 yrs. down in Odessa Texas, which is the largest oil field in the U.S. We worked for oil companies & ran a profitable oil field construction business.

West Texas water has been ruined by the drilling that has taken place down there. The environment down there is not near as fragile as the environment along the Rocky Mountain front. The environment down there is desert, very few trees, caliche ground. We bought our water to drink always. The people.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

that have lived there for any length of time, that drink the ground water, their teeth are yellow & are horrible looking.

To take a shower in that water. Yuck I tried to use a water softer /c salt pellets - made it worse. So, I switched to Potassium pellets that helped a little but by the time I left out of there my long beautiful black hair that I grew out at the Dearborn was now short & dull from breaking off from bad water.

All the time I was down there in that big ugly oil patch /c it terrible water & corrupt oil, I wanted to come back to Montana with its beautiful mountains, clean mountain water, fresh air, wildlife in its natural habitat, few people.

Gods country

The oil company will tell you anything to get what they want.

They don't care about the pristine Rocky Mountain front /c the Bob Marshall Wilderness located right by.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

I've camped out there many times. To be able to look across the vastness & see nothing but the beauty of the way God made the Rocky Mountain front. To go out there & fish in those shrimp ~~feed~~ mountain ponds & lakes. They are the best tasting fish around because of the environment. To go for a walk & look at the wildlife & enjoy the fresh fresh air & the stillness, peace & quiet. To step outside at night & see a sky so vast with stars because there is no city lights out there. To hear a coyote yap in the stillness of the night. It's a place to go to keep your life in proper perspective. A place to rejuvenate your soul. You can't put a price on that. Go out there & try it for a few days you'll see what I mean. It's no place for this noisy business. It's not good for the animals.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

Please say NO to this sale
of our public lands to oil
& gas along the Rocky Mountain
Front in Lewis & Clark, Teton
& Pondera Counties.

Montanans did not want this
in 1997. They don't want
it now.

Sincerely,

Kathy Miller
E. Helena

October 25, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason, DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, Mt. 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason,

We are writing because of our concern about the lands along the Rocky Mountain Front that are being considered for oil and gas exploration.

We think Montana should plan on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy resources such as wind and solar power and biomass generation instead of moving ahead with fossil fuel development. This latter would only increase global warming. We think more can be gained by conservation immediately but the renewable energy resources should be a long term effort. For an incentive for conservation, there should be a federal plus state tax on fuels somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3 or \$4 a gallon and a hefty tax on electric power for commercial and industrial users since they are the users who waste extreme amounts of power and fuel.

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and special place and home to wonderful wildlife species. Its rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, recreation for anglers and beautiful scenery for all. How would oil and gas development affect this? What kinds of pollution control can be put in place that would guarantee to keep this pristine part of Montana clean and safe?

We urge the Land Board to make careful decisions concerning the state lands along the Front that will allow it to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,



Dorothy L. Petersen



Stanley Petersen

130 Clearview Drive
Polson, MT 59860

-----Original Message-----

From: GLORIA FLORA

To: mmason@state.mt.us

Sent: 10/26/2001 4:57 PM

Subject: Comments on Proposed Oil and Gas Leasing

Greetings Monte,

Here are my comments on the proposed oil and gas leasing of some State lands. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Gloria Flora

<<State- RMF.doc>>

Gloria Flora
6189 Birdseye Road
Helena, MT 59602
406-495-9661

October 25, 2001

Mr. Monte Mason
MT DNRC
1625 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Mr. Mason:

Thank you for inviting comment on the proposed Land Board action to lease certain parcels throughout the state for oil and gas development. I believe that routine public notice techniques were insufficient to inform state residents of this proposed action since some of the parcels are located along the Rocky Mountain Front. Most of us would not have been aware of DNRC's proposal had regional newspapers not given it the front-page coverage it deserves.

Surely you are aware that in 1997, then-Governor Racicot supported leasing national forest system lands in that same area. His communications director stated that his unpopular stance on that issue drew more negative mail than any other issue through out his tenure. To pretend that this is just "business as usual" does a disservice to the citizens of Montana as well as casting aspersions on DNRC's position.

As the former Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor, I was responsible for conducting in-depth studies and extensive public involvement on the issue of leasing throughout the entire Forest with special emphasis on the Rocky Mountain Front. Since I am very familiar with the landscape and the public concerns regarding oil and gas leasing in Teton and Lewis and Clark counties, I will focus my comments on those parcels.

I'd like to share my experience in weighing the cost/benefits from the perspectives of business, natural resources, and the owners of the land. In contemporary management terms, this is the triple bottom line: economic, environmental and social. Major companies around the world are recognizing the fallacy of ignoring the costs of the latter two in their decisionmaking. In lay terms, "Pay me now or pay me later."

Economic Considerations

Assuming there were bidders on all of the approximately 17,000 acres along the Front for a high-end bid of \$2.00 per acre, the State would receive \$34,000 a year. This is assuming that the lessees pay up – that's not always the case. This leasing action, which includes several State employees' time, printing and mailing a thousand letters, updating your website, reviewing comments, holding the auction, recording the lease sales and then preparing your sales pitch to the Land Board will cost far more than that in salaries and materials. Now factor in the time that resource specialists and those in other departments, such as FWP need to spend to properly assess potential impacts of leasing. It will take several years of lease revenue just to pay for the process.

I'm not ignoring economy of scale and I recognize that more than just lands on the Front are being offered for lease here. What I'm helping you think through is the true cost of what this proposal requires least we get starry-eyed at what appears to be a reasonable income from this action.

As a long time manager of public lands, I am acutely aware of the true costs of such proposals over time. The annual administration cost of the leases will pale by comparison if any lessee proposes action. The lease must then be studied to develop site-specific stipulations, an appropriate plan of action negotiated and then each stage of work monitored. Are you aware of the irretrievable commitment of dollars that you are proposing?

Again, I suggest you remember history and the fiasco the state had on its hands when the lessee of lands near Blackleaf Canyon failed to follow the development plan. The State had to have specialists on the ground for weeks and lawyers and administrators devoting hours to try to bring the lessee into compliance. Then there was the actual cost of restoration for damage to resources (such as the road purposefully built in the wrong location). The lessee, by then, had conveniently run out of money. This sounds all too familiar.

Reclamation bonding has been notoriously under-calculated by all agencies. Even with state-of-the-art estimation methods, the Forest Service has found it extremely difficult, politically, to set a high enough bond to cover reclamation. It's not unusual for only half the job to get done when the lessee defaults.

Even assuming a more positive scenario, there is still a significant outlay of State money required if exploration is proposed. The likelihood of exploration leading to full field development and the subsequent collection of royalties is slim. I have spoken with, and reviewed non-proprietary geologic maps of the Rocky Mountain Front with lead geologists from a number of energy companies including Chevron. They concur that the chances of actually finding oil or gas reserves in that convoluted geology are less than 1%. If the drilling results in a dry hole, the State gets absolutely nothing for all the time and money spent assisting and monitoring the lessee.

Then there is the cost of litigation. To assume that the public will look on indifferently to proposed exploration and development of the Front is naïve. Since the turn of the century Montanans – including the State – have taken definitive action to protect those precious lands. In the 1997 leasing decision on Forest Service lands, 80% of respondents and thousands of citizens throughout the two-year public input period, were firmly against leasing for energy development. An independent poll by Lee Newspapers showed only 30% of Montanans in favor of development.

In private, I had a number of national energy industry representatives tell me that the Front is the last place that should be developed for energy. Even the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association lost the support of its members and had to fold in the middle of suing the Forest Service for not leasing the Front. Despite the best work by Mountain

States Legal Foundation, both the lower and appeals court upheld the Forest Service no-lease decision on every count.

Let's learn from examples on adjacent public lands. In 1982, then-Regional Forester Tom Coston made the decision to lease the Badger-Two Medicine portion of the Front, which drew 52 appeals¹. In 1996, he stated it was a poor decision and he wished he hadn't done it. Here it is 20 years later and the ten-year leases are still in suspension. Energy giants such as Chevron and Fina were among the successful bidders. In 1998, they both tried to get federal legislation that would release them from the leases for bidding credits in the Gulf of Mexico, for sunk costs only. Senator Burns stopped that legislation so Chevron sold out and Fina waits for further legal action once a cultural study is complete.

Even with an ill-conceived agency decision favoring exploratory drilling, the public was so outraged they sued. Rectification of agency oversights identified in court and the cost of defending leasing has exceeded \$1 million. The FS estimates that the plaintiffs had spent at least that amount as well. Now add that to what the lessees have spent in leasing and attempting to drill... millions upon millions dollars and nothing to show for it except frustration.

Remember, lessees don't pay when leases are in suspension but the agencies pay and pay and pay... in administration, legal fees, additional studies, and more importantly in loss of credibility and trust.

Think ahead.. pipelines, powerlines, major roads², sweetening plants³. Once the properties are leased, there's no way to suddenly wise up to what the true triple bottom line costs are and reverse direction. Are we willing to take that risk to make a maximum of \$34,000 or even \$100,000 a year?

Yes, you have to spend money to make money but the ratio of cost to gain for all State departments involved must be considered. It makes no sense to spend hundreds of thousands in DNRC and FWP to generate tens of thousands for schools. Gambling is legal in the state of Montana but must we do this with State dollars on such an unpopular and questionable venture?

If energy is where we want to gamble, why not try wind generators? At least we can guarantee the wind will blow on the Front.

¹ In contrast, the 1997 no-lease decision on the Rocky Mountain Front generated only three appeals.

² For example, the current Startech proposal on BLM needs 100 truckloads of gravel and fill.

³ The sulfur rich gas underlying the Front requires treatment to remove sulfur. Pincher Creek, just over the border in Canada, has generated a mountain of sulfur, which even brisk fertilizer sales cannot keep up with. However, wind-borne sulfur is now killing cattle on neighboring ranches.

Effects on Natural Resources

In the Forest Service EIS on leasing, extensive scientific work underscored that the ecosystem of the Front possess outstanding integrity and complexity. Grizzly bear populations were rebounding, westslope cutthroat trout were holding their own in small tributaries offering hope the populations could gain a foothold with protection and careful management. There were rare plant communities of both forest and grassland types.

Hundreds of pages could be filled – and have been – extolling the virtues and in some cases, the fragility of individual specie and collectively, the biologically diverse ecosystem found on the Front. They don't need to be repeated here.

The State has their own competent resource specialists in DNRC and FWP; I urge you to listen to them. I also urge you to follow the collaboratively crafted Rocky Mountain Front Guidelines, an agreement between state and federal agencies that manage wildlife along the RMF. These guidelines support consistent management across administrative boundaries and for years have given the public and land managers a reliable, scientifically sound basis for management.

The wildlife resources along the Front are outstanding. The State derives significant income from hunting and fishing licensing as well as the money that out-of-staters leave whether they are outfitted or independent. Do we want to undermine the quality of consumptive and non-consumptive recreation for generations for non-renewable resource development that won't last longer than a couple of decades? At best, any gas discovered will add only a couple of days supply to the national energy system.

Once again, will Montana act like a colony, sacrificing our environment for the exhaustive appetite of cities in other states? Worse yet, as history has proven, the real money made on those resources goes to national or multi-national corporations that only hang around long enough to make a fortune. Montana once again is likely to be left begging for federal tax dollars to help us clean up after the robber barons.

Please carefully consider air quality as well. The US Department of Energy has just underscored in yet another study that energy development poses a serious threat to air quality. Yes, the wind will blow it "away." But there's really no "away"... we all live downwind of whatever we create.

There's been much ballyhoo about new technologies and mitigative measures to protect resources. Indeed, there has been much improvement, however, drilling technology and the result of exploration and development still impact surface resources. This summer, a Wall Street Journal report on Alaskan oil fields stated that inspectors⁴ and industry workers have found the new 'environmentally-friendly' technologies ineffective. Recycling of drilling mud (a toxic substance), remote monitoring of wellheads, multiple wells from one drill site: these were all considered in the Forest Service decision. Even these improvements were insufficient to offset the cumulative negative impacts.

⁴ There are only five state inspectors in Alaska. That state has claimed they are too expensive, whereas Illinois has over thirty. How many does Montana have?

Social Factors

It's pretty straightforward. The people of Montana own these lands. The people of Montana do not want oil and gas leasing on the Front. The State is a steward for these lands and should pay close attention to the will of the residents. Yes, the State is directed to earn money from State lands but not by robbing future generations of the potential to enjoy benefits from these lands.

The claim of bringing jobs to the State through oil and gas leasing fails to present the full picture. Leasing creates very few jobs. Exploration employs a few more but typically these are transient workers who follow drill rigs from state to state. Full development brings in more out of state specialists for the high paying jobs. Locals get a few spin-off benefits and laborer jobs. But locals also get the social costs from a boom and bust economy. In Wyoming, counties thought they were getting a real bonanza from coal bed methane development. But now, gas production is about to shut down because the counties are unable to pay for road dust control; the payoffs from development are insufficient to cover all the associated costs. What process is used in leasing State lands to determine the potential costs to counties?

People have a strong sense of place when it comes to the Front, Montanans and non-Montanans alike. More money is made from the latter coming here for a couple of weeks to revel in the beauty of the Front than will accrue to the State from leasing. Tourism is renewable and reliable. In the wake of the tragedy of September 11, Disneyland, resorts and urban vacations have tanked while visitations to the great outdoors, as evidenced by recent National Park statistics, are strong. We have something unique and special here that is becoming increasingly important nationally.

Sense of place is defined as the comprehensive emotional, intellectual and physical connection people have to a landscape. People have measurable positive responses when they are in a place special to them. Central to sense of place is maintenance of landscape character and the values that make the area special. In some circles, it is popular to scoff at the notion that values such as beauty, meaning, solitude and related benefits are important.⁵ Reflect on places that are important to you personally. Reflect on the wonderful richness that the prose, poetry, music, and art inspired by nature has brought to our lives and our country. Now tell me that the Front is expendable for short-term economic gain.

Additionally, it's not a matter of saving a few pockets of outstanding landscapes here and there from development. What is clearly important to Montanans about the Front is that the whole ecosystem is largely intact. No other stretch of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and southern Canada can boast the same.

The human relationship with landscapes is unique and profound. Landscapes influence significant decisions in our lives... where we live, how we socialize, what we do for a living, what we do for fun. This isn't emotional mumbo-jumbo. It's the reality of being

⁵ Although plaintiffs in the suit against the FS leasing decision on the Front attacked this concept, the lower and appeals court upheld the reasonableness and importance of considering sense of place in public land management decisions.

human. Sound science abounds on the importance of nature in providing relief from stress, in inspiring awe for the Creator, in regaining a sense of balance and personal fulfillment, in providing beauty and meaning to our lives. Pick up a Montana Magazine... what are we celebrating and advertising? What are people paying to look at?

Solutions

I am not opposed to oil and gas leasing in some areas. As this nation shifts our focus to conservation and on how to transition from the Oil Age to the Hydrogen Age, we will still require petroleum. I believe leasing should focus on first on areas that:

- ♦ have already proven to be productive,
- ♦ have an existing infrastructure of energy transportation facilities,
- ♦ have community support services established,
- ♦ are located in resilient ecosystems of moderate to low visual quality, and
- ♦ are not where resource-based tourism is a significant part of the economy.

By prioritizing parcels that fit such criteria, not only is it obvious that parcels along the Front are the lowest on the list but it is the State setting the priorities, not bowing to the desires of bonanza seekers. It's common knowledge that the biggest profits to be made in the oil and gas industry are to lease a unit, generate some information that suggests it's a hot prospect and then sell out to a large company for your expenditures plus a lot of 'blue sky' value. Everyone wants to be the first to find a new field that can be sold as "potentially the biggest ever...". Why let underfinanced speculators set the State's priorities and potentially put our most important areas at risk?

Clearly, the promise by Saudi Arabia to keep \$20 a barrel oil flowing throughout the war on terrorism suggests that prices are going to be low for quite some time. Why lease all that we can now when it will be far more valuable later? Again, prioritizing clusters of leases to be auctioned off every few years will be a wiser way to ensure long-term and sustainable income for our school system.

I would also recommend better public involvement techniques that allow citizens to express their opinions and exchange ideas. This would give the State and citizens an opportunity to better understand the true costs, i.e. the triple bottom line that these leasing actions and potential development may impose.

Lastly, I again urge the State to take a leadership role in energy conservation and creating alternative energy opportunities, both for entrepreneurial business opportunities and for home applications. It's quite clear it's time for new thinking. Let's get out in front with new answers instead of hanging on to old solutions that history has proven hugely uneconomical, especially in environmental and social costs.

Sincerely,

Gloria E. Flora

cc: Montana State Land Board

APPENDIX E: Late Comments

NOTE: As of October 30, 2001, MT-DNRC received 134 public comments regarding Rocky Mountain Front tracts in Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties proposed for leasing on the December 4, 2001 Montana Oil and Gas Lease Sale, after the Oct. 26, 2001 public comment deadline. These included: 16 letters, 1 postcard, and 117 form postcards. Twenty-one form postcards included additional comments ranging from: thanks for the opportunity to comment; agreeing with the content of the postcard; advocating protection of the Front, to leaving it alone; to, no mineral leasing or no drilling on the Rocky Mountain Front. In these late comments, 5 opposed oil and gas exploration and development on the Rocky Mountain Front. Five late comments opposed leasing of state land on the Rocky Mountain Front. Three comments brought up questions that would be covered during site specific review of proposed activity. One hundred twenty-one comments advocated protection of the Rocky Mountain Front.

Form postcards with additional comments are included in the copies of this environmental assessment. The remainder will be kept in the EA file for the December 4, 2001 MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale. In addition, a late e-mail note from BLM on October 29, 2001 provided additional substantive information for stipulations.

The MT-DNRC proposes to apply the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation (number 19 in the application list in Appendix A) to application numbers 5030, 5038-5039, 5044, 5048-5050, 5070-5085, and 5094-5102 in Lewis and Clark County and numbers 5035-5037, 5040-5041, 5043, 5051-5058, and 5103-5122 in Teton County. This stipulation was utilized on application numbers 5072-5074, 5078, 5085, and 5094-5099 in Lewis and Clark County when they were previously leased in June 1999 and on application numbers 5050, 5075-5077, 5079-5084, and 5100-5102 when previously leased in June 2000. This proposal is due to the location of these school trust lands in northwestern Lewis and Clark County and western Teton County, i.e. (the lower elevation eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain Front, generally west of Choteau and Augusta) and proximity to areas with concerns including wildlife, water quality, and vegetation.

Pursuant to the Rocky Mountain Front sensitive areas stipulation, "No surface activities shall occur on the lease premises unless and until the Operating Plan or Amendment is approved by the Board." After completion of an environmental review, the Land Board may approve, modify, or deny surface activity on the lease.

Use of the Rocky Mountain Front stipulation by the Land Board results in a lease agreement that expressly precludes any utilization of the surface by the lessee, unless the lessee can formulate an operating and reclamation plan that meets the Land Board's approval as constituting the best use of trust resources or the best interest of the State of Montana. The stipulation also recognizes and requires that any surface utilization of the lease lands would have to adhere to applicable resource guidelines prepared by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The stipulation also expressly incorporates a requirement that the environmental impact statement include impact analysis on an ecosystem scale. Therefore, the broad socioeconomic and natural resource concerns expressed by some commentators relative to the overall impacts from surface use of state lands for exploration or development will be addressed if/when a proposal for use is submitted by the lessee. It is important to note that, unlike the large blocks of Federal ownership along the Rocky Mountain Front, a decision by the Land Board on whether to allow school trust lands to be utilized for exploration or development does not determine whether such activity will occur. The state school trust parcels are scattered along the eastern transition area east of the Front, within an area of significant private mineral ownership. The Land Board does not have authority over private land interests.

Kinley, Teresa

From: Kathleen_Bockness@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 7:26 AM
To: tkinley@state.mt.us
Cc: Fred_Wambolt@blm.gov; Kent_Undlin@blm.gov
Subject: Preliminary Lease Sale List

We were sent your nominations for the December 4, 2001 Oil and Gas Lease Sale for review. I know that you wanted any comments in writing, but because of people being in the field or those out of the office it was difficult having everyone review by the date requested. The wildlife biologist did have a few comments which he wanted forwarded so thought the best way was to email. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call at 406-233-2844. Thanks

ROSEBUD

5011	T8N	R41E	Sec 36	ALL	within mule deer winter range*	<i>*Mule deer are not T₃E species. The topo map shows abundant similar habitat in the area. - No impact -</i>
5065	T9N	R34E	Sec 16	All	within 1/4 mile sage grouse lek **	
5067	T9N	R35E	Sec 16	All	within 1/2 mile sage grouse lek **	
5015	T9N	R41E	Sec 16	All	within 2 mile sage grouse lek **	
5017	T9N	R44E	Sec 16	All	within 1/4 mile sage grouse lek **	
5019	T10N	R41E	Sec 16	All	within 2 mile sage grouse lek **	
5020	T10N	R41E	Sec 36	All	within 2 mile sage grouse lek **	
5023	T11N	R40E	Sec 36	All	within 1/4 mile sage grouse lek **	
5024	T11N	R41E	Sec 16	All	within 1/4 mile sage grouse lek **	
5025	T11N	R41E	Sec 36	All	within mule deer winter range *	

*** The wildlife survey stipulation and the TLM D contact MT-DFWP stipulation (regarding sage grouse) will be utilized on these tracts.*

530 N. Montana
Bozeman, MT 59715
25 October 2001

Monte Mason
DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2001
D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason,

The Montana constitution requires that Montana's natural environment be protected. State lands are required to generate income for the schools of this state. these are not conflicting requirements. As such, the Montana State lands are a valuable resource in the portfolio of assets intended to provide income. But it is a simplistic economic approach to log old growth or by destroy wildlands along the Rocky Mountain front in the search for nonrenewable fossil fuels (oil and gas). State lands are not assets to be liquidated but instead are long term capital assets which can produce the equivalent of interest income if properly managed and nurtured.

I have seen the Waterton gas field just over the Canadian border. It is no wildland. Anyone who was dependent on the wildness of that area, either for business (as outfitters, etc.) or otherwise is ought of luck there. And I have been through and over the Snowies and other areas of state lands and seen what's already happening insofar as logging. I could go on...

It seems fairly obvious that fossil fuels and our dependence on them are a dead end approach to our energy needs. Solar, wind, hydro power and other micro approaches to energy production are taking off despite the federal administration's lack of support for them. The state of Montana has already left its citizens in the lurch insofar as power sources. Montana citizens are finally becoming cognizant of the situation and recognizing that it's not so much a need for more power but thanks to MPC's selloff, it is a need for power under our control so we are not captive buyers to whatever power company is in ownership. The Blackfeet tribe is putting together one of the more innovative approaches to sustainable energy within the state and will be helping themselves as well as their customers. The state of Montana could readily use the assets of state lands as locations for wind and solar power generation, to be available to the citizens of the state, thus producing the income from state lands and providing affordable energy again to our citizens.

Our Rocky Mountain Front is too rare, too valuable, too much a scarce and precious commodity to squander for perpetuity on what ultimately is only a very limited amount of oil or gas either one, especially when it isn't even necessary to take such an approach. It would be a masochistic act in the same way as selling your eye for the sake of a month's rent. It makes me physically sick to see some of what's already happened and happening to so many extraordinary spots. Our state lands are the treasure for all of us as they are now, without further violation. As the population of the West, Montana included, continues to grow, the need for these places as they are will only be greater. We have no right to sacrifice them for a few dribbles of fossil fuels when they could be used for ongoing sustainable energy production as well as continuing to be part of what makes Montana the extraordinary place it (still) is.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Trolinger

cc: Judy Martz, Mike McGrath, Bob Brown, John Morrison, Linda McCulloch

October 25, 2001

Dear Monte Mason,

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

This letter is in regards to the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation's proposal to allow oil and gas development on State owned lands. Please consider the following points in your Environmental Analysis.

As a resident of Montana I find the DNRC's use of State Lands to even consider allowing corporate interest's access to our state lands disturbing. The area in question for development is a vital habit corridor for many animals, and adjacent lands have been put off limits to development by the oil and gas industries. Did you realize that the Rocky Mountain Front is the last place in the lower 48 states that Grizzly Bears still travel out of the mountains and onto the plains via the riparian corridors to find food? This fact alone should be the basis for denying the disruption of these lands. But, if that isn't enough, please consider the huge amount of damage that will be caused by the actual development of this "resource" as many miles of roads, pipelines and related equipment will be trucked in and maintained for the life of these projects. I personally understand the State's need for school trust money, but should we be developing fossil fuels on these amazingly beautiful places that all Montanans own? The reality is that someday if these lands are allowed to be developed, that a basic piece of what makes this state special will be lost forever. An example of how extreme the damage to the wild lands will be is the Albertan Front. I encourage you, or someone from your department, to visit that particular area before you make a decision. It will more than likely shock and disgust you, and rightfully so. I really would like to say that in the end, we all have to answer for our own personal decisions, and you are in a very powerful position and putting the brakes on such a short sighted project should bring you good Karma. Please listen to the people and not the corporate oil and gas companies, as we all see what occurred in Montana in the latter part of the 19th century.

Sincerely,



Steve D. Barry
420 East Front #3
Missoula, Montana 59802

Monte Mason

D.N.R.C

Helena, Montana

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C

Dear Mr. Mason,
I am very concerned about the proposed oil and gas leases along the Rocky Mountain Front. Developing the Rocky Mountain Front for oil and gas drilling would ruin this area which is a unique wildlife habitat and a source for clean water.

I feel that the environmental quality of this area is more important than extracting a limited amount of oil and gas.

It's time to change the stance. I think Montana (and the nation) should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power. Please consider these thoughts while making your decisions.

Sincerely,
Curt Meyer

Dear Mr. Mason:

Having learned that D.N.R.C is considering leasing lands along the Rocky Mountain Front for oil & gas exploration, I am deeply concerned about this.

This area should be kept off limits to oil and gas development. Conservation and development of alternative energy sources should be our primary focus.

The Rocky Mountain Front is a good ranching country and valuable as wild life habitat. It provides income to local outfitters and individuals from recreation, hunting, and fishing.

Sincerely,
John Easton

October 26, 2001

Monte Mason
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing to you to express my concern about the possibility that the Rocky Mountain Front might be opened to oil and gas exploration.

This is a pristine area that is home to a variety of wildlife. Montanans value wildlife; yet, with increasing development across the state, there are fewer and fewer places that are safe for wildlife. The increase in the number of people, houses, cabins, cars, fences, and even pets is shrinking the amount of land upon which wildlife depend for food and unfettered travel. This increases the stress on these animals—and increases the mortality rate of these animals and their offspring.

Montanans, however, value bears, wild cats, elk, deer, birds, fish and other animals, as clearly evidenced by the popularity of these animals on calendars, cards, shirts and other "Montana" items. Hunting continues to be popular, along with hiking.

We do not need development in every single nook and cranny of Montana. Roads already criss-cross the majority of the state. Please leave some of these natural areas in their natural condition. I ask you to leave the state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front untouched by oil and gas exploration.

What if oil and gas is found? Then will these resources allowed to be developed? It is better to not open that Pandora's Box in the first place. If oil and gas is found, it will only lead to greater fighting. Please do not allow exploration in the first place.

Please leave this quiet, undeveloped place for the animals that have no money, have no vote and have no voice. And for all people—whose lives will be more fulfilled if they aren't the only species left.

Sincerely,



Jill Sundby
444 Barney
Helena, MT 59601

Best Western
Lodge at Jackson Hole
P.O. Box 7478
80 S. Scott Lane
Jackson, WY 83002
307-739-9703



I would like to comment on the Backus MT
Front Oil + Gas Leases. I am very
concerned about the effects on the environ-
ment + wildlife in the area. Any
proposal should have the most protection
possible for natural ecosystems.

Atten: _____

6 (Please - NO mailing
list)



RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason DNR

POB 201601

Helena 59620-1601

October 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Mason:

I believe the natural beauty of the Rocky Mountain Front is worth preserving for future generations and respectfully request that you do everything possible to protect its environment.

I am concerned that oil and gas leases will degrade this habitat for wildlife species, water purity, recreational values, and the economic future of Montana. No more areas such as these will be created in our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Sue H. Siebert

200 Imperial Way

Missoula, MT 59803

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason
DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2001
D.N.R.C.

October 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Mason:

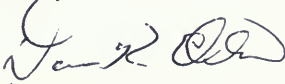
As former residents of Pondera County we are very concerned about proposed gas and oil leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

We are well aware that the state lands are required to generate income for schools. However, the environment must also be protected, and the Rocky Mountain Front is a very special area.

We are particularly concerned about ground and surface water pollution. Having worked for many years in the heavy construction industry, I know that most businesses chief concern is their bottom line. We would prefer that gas and oil leases NOT be granted in this area. However, if gas and oil leases are to be granted, there must be stringent environmental conditions attached to any such leases, and such conditions must be enforced.

Montana already has too many examples of natural resource exploitation.

Sincerely,




Dan K. Olson
Jeanne F. Olson
160 West Valley Acres
Kalispell, MT, 59901

3801 6th Ave. N.
Great Falls, MT 59405
dr.starshine@home.com
26 October 01

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Monte Mason, DNRC
POB 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

I am writing to you because of my concern for the Rocky Mountain Front. I feel that oil and gas leases should not be permitted on such a pristine wilderness area with its critical wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

D. Starshine
D. Starshine

Glasgow, Montana
25 October 2001

MONTE MASON, DNRC
P O BOX 201601
HELENA MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing to express my thoughts on the proposed oil and gas leases on state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. Please consider that the income generated on the state lands of this nature can be more from not leasing than leasing. The lease income will be relatively short term from oil and gas leases but much longer income will be generated by using the lands to protect all the aspects of the natural environment which can generate income from people who come to enjoy these features into many generations of the future. The oil and gas people will tell you that they will not degrade the environment but this can be shown to not be true by examining the leavings from industry in other parts of Montana. I site the Kevin-Sunburst oil field as an example. Pollution lies on the ground in many places there. We are often told that no damage will result and clean ups will be done. Montana contains many examples of these promises being set aside by such things as bankruptcies and changes in development plans. The events around Kendall, Butte, and Landusky are only a few.

Please recognize the real values that come from a pristine environment. Sustainable income from renewable energy from wind and solar development will last longer and be more beneficial to the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max A. Makich".

Max A Makich
P O Box 109
Glasgow, Montana 59230

10/24/01

Dear Mr. Mason,

I am writing to comment
on oil and gas leases on
State lands along The Rocky
Mountain Front.

NO !

The Rocky Mountain Front is
too precious for short term
profits.

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C

Sincerely,
Mark Schulten &
Genevieve Reid
228 Tava Lane
Livingston, MT
59047

Greg Gordon
669 Dearborn River Rd.
Cascade, MT 59421
(406) 788-7749
October 26, 2001

Monte Mason
DNRC
POB 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

RE: Rocky Mountain Front leasing

Dear Mr. Mason:

As you are no doubt aware, Montanans have consistently and repeatedly voiced their concerns over oil and gas leasing on the Rocky Mountain Front advocating that land management agencies leave the Front just the way it is.

Oil and gas leasing, and subsequent exploration and drilling would severely impact sensitive wildlife species such as grizzlies and harlequin ducks through habitat fragmentation and disturbance. Oil and gas leasing would necessitate roads, increased traffic, dust, and pollution, all contributing to wildlife fragmentation and disturbance. The latest Forest Service EIS details these impacts.

Leasing would also fundamentally alter the character of the Front, that quality which makes it unique. This was ultimately Forest Supervisor Gloria Flora's reason for withdrawing the Forest Service lands along the Front from leasing. DNRC should follow suit with this wise decision and maintain state lands in the condition that Montanans cherish.

DNRC has an obligation to manage state lands for Montana's schoolchildren. The short term profits generated from leasing may financially benefit school districts, but leave us impoverished as a people. The long term benefits from not leasing far outweigh any short term gains.

Furthermore, as a responsible global citizen, DNRC has an obligation to reduce greenhouse gases and should investigate solar and wind production before pursuing non-renewable fossil fuels.

The Rocky Mountain Front is one of the most dramatic and special places on earth. Let's not squander our children's inheritance by leaving them with an impoverished landscape

Sincerely,



10/25/01

Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2001
D.N.R.C.

Dear Monte:

Please DO NOT lease state lands along the Rocky Mountain Front for oil &/or gas exploration. The destructive & polluting aspects of such exploration, which include wildlife disturbance, introduction of noxious weeds, surface oil spills, scars on pristine lands are simply not worth it for a few weeks or months of oil & gas. Allowing such exploration is extremely short-sighted, & places temporary financial gain ahead of preservation of one of the few unspoiled (relatively), natural areas remaining in the state. Once the area is roaded, weed-infested, eroded, polluted, & scarred, we will never restore it to its present beauty. There are so few such areas left, that we should recognize their irreplaceable value & strive to protect, not destroy them. (over)

Sincerely,
Polly Bailey
4 Harrison Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

P.S. Please have the courage Gloria Flora showed, & protect the lands that belong to us, the state's citizens, from development by out-of-state corporations. The value of these lands as they are, is exponentially greater ~~than~~ money! In this case, the highest & best use is NOT oil & gas or the few pennies such exploration will bring to Montana's citizens. Please have the guts to make this stand on behalf of Montanans, who own & treasure these lands.

2140 18th Rd. NE
Dutton, MT 59433
October 26, 2001

Monte Mason
DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

One of the problems with this is the short-sighted nature of the proposal. The Land Board should be looking at 25, 50, or 100 years down the road or more, not just 5 or 10 and the short-term returns that may be available. There is no mandate for the State to maximize returns on State lands in the shortest possible time frame. It is questionable if leasing this incredibly wildlife rich, recreationally valuable, scenically unique and sustainably economical area is even the best way to gain the greatest economical return on the land.

Will drilling and the attendant destruction of landscape and habitat make up for the loss of recreation and outfitter use of the area—a very economically stable and long-term way to produce income? How will the State ensure that pollution of our Constitutionally guaranteed clean water and air is prevented? In the event of a spill, will the taxpayers of Montana be stuck for the bill for cleanup? What about the costs to wildlife and their habitat from roads, drilling rigs, waste ponds, flare pits and other hazards that the oil and gas industry creates? What about the costs of lost hunter and recreational opportunities? Will all these hidden costs be considered when you figure what the State might gain from short-term leasing?

Beyond all of these considerations is the fact that we **must** begin to move away from our fossil fuel folly and move toward sustainable, renewable energy resources. Is the State promoting wind and solar energy? Why not? We have an abundance of both and no need to befoul our fabulous Rocky Mountain Front with drilling rigs, gas wells and more roads. I vehemently oppose ANY drilling on the Front. Let's work to keep Montana the Last Best Place and not just the Last Place to Be Ruined.

Sincerely,



Wendy Whitehorn

Mr. Monte Mason
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, Montana 59620-1601

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

October 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Mason:

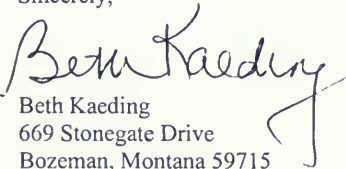
I understand that the DNRC is considering leasing 17,000 acres of State land along the Rocky Mountain Front for oil and gas exploration and is now conducting public scoping for the environmental assessment. I wish to be placed on the mailing list for this project, and below I provide the following scoping comments.

While I understand the Land Board's responsibility to generate monies for the School Trust from State lands, I want to see the Rocky Mountain Front's astounding array of natural resources protected. I commented many times on the U.S. Forest Service's proposals to drill for oil and gas in this area, and I very much supported Gloria Flora's decision to withdraw those lands from oil and gas leasing for a period of time. Montana should explore more vigorously sustainable energy sources and methods as well as energy conservation practices rather than drill in such a sensitive area.

Please thoroughly examine and evaluate the consequences of the effects this type of development would have on migrating and wintering herds of ungulate wildlife, on grizzly bear, wolves, birds of prey and all other indigenous wildlife. Please thoroughly examine and evaluate the consequences of road and other disturbance issues and how that would impact rivers and streams (sedimentation, crossings) and the problem of noxious weeds. Please thoroughly examine and evaluate the consequences of oil/gas field pollution (including air and noise pollution) and the control measures necessary to protect ground and surface waters, air, and natural quiet.

The Rocky Mountain Front provides many Montanans with outstanding recreational experiences as well as "clean" tourist-oriented jobs and livelihoods. The Rocky Mountain Front epitomizes Montana and is a symbol of "the last best place." Please consider this as you prepare the environmental document and deliberate on the future of this special place.

Sincerely,


Beth Kaeding
669 Stonegate Drive
Bozeman, Montana 59715

John P. Jones
538 Highland St.
Helena, MT 59601

October 26, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2001

D.N.R.C.

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

John P. Jones
538 Highland St.
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,
Carol Beech McNamee
is BAD NEWS a SAT 11

Wm L Greiner
717 11th Ave
Great Falls, MT 59401
WE 10.26.01

Dear Mr. Mason,
Gloria Floria made a decision to keep the Front off-limits to gas oil leases several years ago.
I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,
This decision reflects the public's desire to keep the front off-limits. Please don't reverse this decision, or this "other" means.

Jennifer Smith
1306 3rd Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. PLEASE SAY NO TO SPECULATIVE MINING!

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

The Front is home to myriad wildlife species such as grizzlies, bald eagles, wolves and more. How will this oil and gas development effect their critical habitat?

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Sincerely,
9 of 1000
Sally Cunningham
(406) 466-5699

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

Steve Thompson
PO Box 4485
Whitfish, MT 59937
Please keep me informed of DNR land board action on this

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

I PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN
CHATEAU, MONTANA. PO BOX 1082
LEAVE THE FRONT ALONE PLEASE. LIVINGSTON, MT 59047

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

We have feiled
with Kendall, Toubman,
and Lonsky!

Kathleen A. McFarlane
PO Box 109
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Mr. Mason,

I urge you to not open up MT public lands (the oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front).

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Richard C. Young
636 Fanning St. Long
Bacon, MT 59715

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

Sara Toubman
The Front is my
favorite place - great Helena, MT 59601
fishing & bird watching!

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely, Bob Raney
Ps. Our family has lived in the Front + loved it
236 S. Robert
Let's preserve for other
generations
Helena, MT. 59604

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely, Save the Front!
Bob Raney
212 S. 6 St
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely, Mr. Mrs. Martin Truhyoltz
Ps. This may be a form
after burning wood and
it if we didn't agree 100%
was its money.
P.O. Box 211
Billings, MT. 59505

Dear Mr. Mason,

Think long term!

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Egli



Mr. Stephen Egli
204 Chestnut St
Missoula, MT. 59801

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2001

D.N.R.C.

Jennifer L. Thompson
30 S. Hoback
Helena, MT 59601
406-443-5590
jenthom@in-tch.com
October 26, 2001



Dear Mr. Mason,

I am concerned about the potential to lease State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front for gas/oil exploration and development. I know that the Land Board has a legal requirement to generate income from state lands as well as a constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment.

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique ecological area in the lower 48 states. I have seen grizzlies feed on the plains below the Front in the spring. I have found travois tracks along the Front which are part of the Old North Trail. The history and ecology of the Rocky Mountain Front are important to protect as Montana's heritage and as a resource that we can offer the nation.

I have lived in Montana for 24 years and have traveled to all the lower 48 states and lived in 7 different states before settling in Montana in 1978. I know the uniqueness of the Front from hiking and spending time in the area. I also know the condition of the land in other states. I have seen Montana change in the 24 years I have lived here. The Rocky Mountain Front is a special area.

I would be proud if the State of Montana had the foresight to preserve the Rocky Mountain Front ecologically and historically intact as it is now. Please think of the Front as an important resource for the nation. Montana truly is the "Last Best Place". Protecting the Rocky Mountain Front will contribute to our heritage and income for the future of Montana.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer L. Thompson

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

JULIE FREEMAN
3101 Huckleberry Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59404
NO!!! leave the
scenery alone!! There
are always more important
than money!

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

It is imperative to preserve
the environmental integrity
of this area!
Sarah Jaeger
908 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

JOHN J. MASON
2100 1/2 Highway 2 Dr.
Missoula, MT 59803

Dear Mr. Mason,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Land Board needs to strike a balance between the legal requirement to generate income from these lands and the constitutional duty to protect Montana's natural environment. I think Montana should focus on a sustainable energy future that includes conservation and renewable energy such as wind and solar power before moving ahead with fossil fuel development.

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Nearby rivers and streams provide habitat for fish, scenic value, recreation for anglers, and income for local outfitters. What kinds of pollution control measures will be put in place to keep Montana's ground and surface water clean and safe?

The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique and treasured place that is an enormous part of making Montana the "last best place." Let's make prudent decisions that will allow the Front to stay pristine and untouched as it is today.

Sincerely,

Just got back from elk Craig Mohr
Hunting near Sunbeam. 178 Fawns Rd
(and anyone else out there)
I'm a Wildlife painter who's been

Dear Mr. Mason,

Oct. 29, 2001

I'm writing to comment on the proposed oil and gas leases on State lands along the Rocky Mountain Front.

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Sincerely,

THIS PRINTED CARD DOES
EXPRESS MY PERSONAL
CONCERNS.

Steve Walker
PO BOX 1279
HELENA MT 59624

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Sincerely,

These aren't my
words but they are what
we'll do, that comp. Mr.
my own thoughts

William P. Roney
5104 Clark
Billings, Mt. 59102

